

Mr Sadat expecting Israel to make extensive withdrawal

Optimism that Israel will make concessions during the Christmas Day meeting in Cairo between President Sadat and Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, was being expressed in the Egyptian capital yesterday. Mr Sadat said he

expected Israel to make extensive withdrawals from the territories occupied after the 1967 war. Senior Egyptian officials said the Israelis would be bringing to Cairo a peace plan significantly more flexible than the proposals already outlined in public.

Begin visit may be prolonged

By Our Correspondent

airo, Dec 23

Egyptian officials are

optimistic that the historic talks

between President Sadat and Mr

Begin, the Israeli Prime

Minister, will achieve a break-

through for a comprehensive

East-West settlement.

Disagreements still existed

between the Egyptian and

Israeli sides, officials at the

preparatory peace conference

said, but it was hoped that

a Ismailia summit would

close the gap.

The differences are believed

to relate to Israel's withdrawal

from the territories it occupied

in 1967. Middle East war

and demarcation, agreed

over the Palestine issue.

Egypt wants a complete

withdrawal from all

occupied territories and a

Jordanian state on the Gaza

and on the West Bank

the Jordan river seized by

Israel in 1967. Israel is

obstinate to meet these

mandates, particularly that con-

cerning the West Bank.

Egyptian optimism over the

day-Begin talks was also re-

acted by the semi-official press.

Cairo, with the influential

Gomhouria saying that

it expected Israel to make

concessions. A change in the

position was expected.

Inform sources in Ismailia

said Mr Begin, who is due to

return to Israel after his talks

with Mr Sadat on Sunday, was

likely to extend his stay until

Monday. The two leaders were

also likely to hold a second

round of talks after their joint

press conference on Sunday evening.

Officials in Ismailia were

day giving the final touch to

the arrangements for Mr

Begin's historic meeting with

President Sadat, the second

since the Egyptian leader's visit

to Jerusalem last month.

Mr Begin and his wife are

expected to land at Abu Swair,

an air base west of Ismailia,

around 0900 GMT on Sunday.

The Israeli Prime Minister will

be greeted by his Egyptian

counterpart, Mr Moustafa

Salem, General Muhammad

Abdul-Ghani, the War Minister,

Mr Butros Ghali, acting Foreign

Minister, and other senior

officials.

After landing at Abu Swair,

Mr Begin and Mr Salem will

be welcomed by helicopter to President

Sadat's Nafir rest house in

Ismailia where the talks will

be held.

The Egyptian delegation will

include Vice-President Hosni

Mubarak, Mr Selem, General

Gamal, Dr Ghali and Dr

Esmar Abdul-Maqid, the head

of the delegation at the Cairo

peace talks.

With Mr Begin will be Mr

Vigal Yadin, Deputy Prime

Minister, Mr Moshe Dayan,

Foreign Minister, Mr Ezer

Weizman, Defence Minister,

Mr Erel Sharon, Agricul-

ture Minister, Mr Eliakim

Elkin, chief Israeli dele-

gate at the Cairo talks.

On th of his talks with

Mr Begin, President Sadat will

preside over an emergency

meeting of the National

Security Council, the highest

policy-making body.

President Sadat said today he expects

the talks to last about

two days.

Each year, on the night

before Christmas Eve, a band

of stalwarts heads the queue

outside the chapel, complete

with sleeping bags and stoves.

By noon today the queue will

extend round the front court

and back to the bridge over

the Cam.

Early in January applications

for tickets for next year's

service will start to pour in

from America, Japan and

Europe. But only 20 tickets

Choirboy's solo will start Christmas for world millions

By David Nicholson-Lord

At five minutes past three this afternoon a soloist will sing the opening verse of "Once in Royal David's city".

For millions of people throughout the world Christmas will have begun.

With the Queen's Speech and the roasting turkey, the broadcast festival of nine lessons and carols from King's College, Cambridge, has become an integral part of the Greater British Christmas.

are reserved for applications from abroad.

The celebration of tickets presents a recurring conundrum to the authorities at King's. About 4,750 people can be crammed in for the carol service. Until a few years ago about 1,500 tickets were given out on a grace-and-favour basis, largely to members of the college and the rest went to those who queued. Then numbers were increased to give us their rights and the proportions were reversed.

The reason is that King's likes to see the service as its gift to the public. The result is that a cologne porter who made a late approach to the dean about a ticket for the service last week stands a much better chance of getting inside the chapel than the master of a neighbouring Cambridge college.

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HOME NEWS

Top-level change at the Department of the Environment

The quiet steersman of devolution policy

By Peter Hennessy...
The Prime Minister, after consulting Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, has appointed Sir John Garlick as permanent secretary to the Department of the Environment in succession to Sir Ian Bancroft, who next month becomes Head of the Home Civil Service.

Sir John, who is 56, has been Second Permanent Secretary at the Cabinet Office and had all its constitution unit since October, 1974. He was the civil servant primarily responsible for getting the Government's devolution policy past official scepticism in Whitehall.

A quiet, undemonstrative man, he lacks the conspicuous personal impact of some of his peers among the permanent secretaries. He nevertheless often took them by surprise during the arduous, unpredictable, and often acrimonious negotiations of the country's constitutional arrangements by overcoming stiff opposition in Cabinet committees.

Although subscribing to Whitehall's traditional view of

itself, that civil servants "put reality in front of ministers and leave them to determine policy", Sir John was doggedly persistent in telling other government departments that Cabinet decisions meant that the states quo was no longer an option for Scotland and Wales.

In some ways, however, he differs from the normal run of higher-grade servants. Sir John has been working as a Post Office engineer, and spent the war improving the signals systems of the Armed Forces at Doulton Hill, west London. He took the recompensation committee for the old administrative class of the Civil Service and entered the Ministry of Transport in 1948.

Sir John is unusual, too, in the degree to which he accepts the norms of civil service on the proper role of the civil servant within the state. Although he has advocated "scrapping of the country's constitutional arrangements by overcoming stiff opposition in Cabinet committees.

Although subscribing to



Sir John Garlick: Thoughts on tyranny.

normal regime were to emerge step by step in Britain. What would or should be the breaking point, the suspension of habeas corpus, or would it be one time without bursting at the seams. It will be a must for Sir John as his roads himself in.

He is unlikely to be replaced at the constitution unit, its job having been the relatively simple one of steering two Bills through Parliament. In sufficient work for a second permanent secretary.

Although he has been known to wonder if the new Civil Service would do the right thing and resign in

the Cabinet Office he ran the roads programme when it was absorbing a large proportion of public expenditure. His immediate concern on his return to Marchant Street will be the inner cities and housing finance.

The department has been plagued with a host of policy reviews since he left in 1974: housing finance, transport (now under the reconstituted Department of Transport), local government finance, urban areas, English regions.

Sir Ian Bancroft was studying before he left a document representing a "review of reviews" which he had commissioned. It questioned how much policy responsibility a minister could stand at any time without bursting at the seams. It will be a must for Sir John as his roads himself in.

The need for improvements in railway catering was emphasized in a report to a recent meeting of the joint management-union council. The body representing 2,000 management staff, the British Transport Officers Guild, said that sometimes rail catering let down the whole BR

Spain's main opposition party raised the issue in a parliamentary debate on disturbances in the southern port of Málaga and in the Canary Islands which have caused concern in the armed forces.

General Rafael Ballesuero, a Socialist deputy from Málaga, accused the police of "irregular and excessive" intervention

in

against pro-autonomy demonstrators.

"It is necessary for the Government to impress on the security forces that they are at the service of freedom and the defence of the rights of all", he said.

General Manuel Prieto Lopez, a regional commander of the paramilitary Civil Guard, was dismissed recently after he criticized the Government's public order policy.

He had said Civil Guards were being used to break up demonstrations without proper antiriot equipment and should

have been sometimes to defend themselves.

Reuter and AP.

Portuguese workers abroad traditionally return home for Christmas and the airline strike has hit these travellers worst of all, airline sources said.

TAP, the national airline, for higher wages and better working conditions. The strike, which has grounded the airline since yesterday, threatens to continue indefinitely.

TAP (Transportes Aéreos Portugueses) offers the only scheduled service to the islands.

The pilots want their salaries doubled. They say they are the lowest paid in the world. The airline has offered a 10 per cent increase. The union says its Boeing 727s earn an average of 40,000 escudos (£530) a month. Pilots say there have been no increases since 1972.

A three-day strike in September ended after TAP promised to negotiate. —AP.

WEST EUROPE

Death of youths shot by Spanish police to be investigated

Madrid, Dec. 23.—Spanish Socialist deputies pressed the British Parliament to put a stop to alleged police brutality after the death of two youths, who were shot when police opened fire in recent demonstrations. A parliamentary committee is to investigate the incident.

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Reuter and AP.

Air Force planes ferry passengers out of Lisbon

Lisbon, Dec. 23.—Portuguese Air Force aircraft began strike-breaking shuttles to take thousands of stranded Portuguese emigrant workers from Lisbon to their homes in Madeira and the Azores today.

The Civil Aviation Authority announced that Air Force DC6s and C130 transports would ferry passengers caught by a strike by pilots and cabin crews of TAP, the national airline, for higher wages and better working conditions. The strike, which has grounded the airline since yesterday, threatens to continue indefinitely.

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Portuguese workers abroad traditionally return home for Christmas and the airline strike has hit these travellers worst of all, airline sources said.

TAP cancelled all national and international flights from midday last night after talks, which began last September between management and the pilots' union, broke down.

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Swiss seek Solzhenitsyn back taxes

Zurich, Dec. 23.—Swiss tax authorities are seeking as much as 500,000 francs (£12,500) in unpaid taxes from Mr Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the exiled Soviet writer and Nobel prize winner.

Officially, the Zurich tax administration would today say only that it is "in contact" with Mr Solzhenitsyn's Swiss lawyers. Unofficially, however, canonical government sources said that back taxes which could amount to half a million francs are being claimed.

Mr Solzhenitsyn settled in Zurich with his family in February, 1974 and left secretly in August, 1976, for the United States. Before his exile from the Soviet Union he had Western royalties from his books placed in a Swiss bank account.

Register of conscientious objectors escapes fire

Cologne, Dec. 23.—Unidentifiable crackers set fire to the government office dealing with conscientious objectors to military service with petrol bombs during the night, police said today.

Some furniture was destroyed but the fire was put out before it reached the rooms where the register of conscientious objectors was kept.

A new military service law came into force in August.

Last week the Federal Constitutional Court suspended this law pending a final decision on whether it transgresses the constitution.

Ransom cash found in worker's trunk

Alessandria, Dec. 23.—A trunk mailed from Milan to Sardinia broke open during the transit from one train to another revealing 180m lire (£10,000) in banknotes paid to ransom three kidnap victims.

Checks with the police computer system in Rome proved that the money was part of sums paid for the release of three industrialists, Signor Paolo Costa, of Genoa, Signor Paolo Lazzaroni, of Milan, and Signor Saverio Garonzi, of Verona.

Extreme left wingers have long accused Signor Migliorini of using armed agents provocateurs in civil disturbances.

Two Rome officers of the ruling Christian Democratic Party were set on fire today by left-wing extremists, police said. —UPI and Reuter.

From Patricia Clough

Bonn, Dec. 23

An American correspondent once wrote that Bonn was half as big as Chicago cemetery and twice as dead.

Now Bonn's city fathers have issued a wad of facts and figures which go to a long way towards changing the town's reputation as a dreary *Bundesdorf*—a one-horse federal village with little to offer but government offices and Rhineland smog.

Eighty-five per cent of Bonn's inhabitants like living here and 70 per cent would not leave if they had the chance, according to a booklet issued by the city hall.

They find it a cheerful, youthful, pleasant, leisure-minded town, easy-going and charming.

Bonner boasts, per head of population, the most sports fields, swimming baths and gyms of any German city, the biggest pedestrian precinct, the third highest number of private cars and the

lowest unemployment.

In fact, the statistic-crunched city says about 1.7 square miles of its forested about 980 acres of public gardens and 520 flower pots. Some 13,000 trees line its streets, just over two for each of its 6,000 dogs.

Bonn seems to be a bachelor's dream. Like many administrative towns, it has more women than men, particularly in the 18 to 25 age group. People marry more and die less than in almost any other town in the country.

It is also highly cosmopolitan. One in every 13 of its 283,462 inhabitants is a foreigner, and this does not include the 7,128 diplomats and their families living here.

With 62 per cent of the working population employed in offices, Bonn's largest industry is clearly the Government. But this conceals the fact that it is still a rural town with almost as many hens (24,368) as federal employees (29,222). It also has 1,267

cows, 1,233 pigs and 623 sheep.

Bonn has, in fact, changed vastly since the American journalist wrote the opinion which has always ranked here. Over the past decade it has grown from a sleepy provincial town to a small but pleasant, well-planned and modern garden city.

It has absorbed neighbouring towns, restored and rebuilt whole areas, created fast throughways and attractive new suburbs. Its shops, concerts, theatres, restaurants and night-clubs cannot compete with big cities such as Munich but are excellent for a town of its size.

One thing the city fathers have not been able to improve is its notoriously heavy and enervating climate, often hot and sultry in summer and damp and foggy in winter. But at least the leader makes a heroic effort by declaring that its mild temperatures make Bonn "Italy's northernmost town".

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OVERSEAS

Polisario hostages return to emotional welcome in Paris

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Dec 23

The eight French hostages handed over in Algiers by the Polisario Front Saharan guerrillas to Dr Waldheim, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, arrived with him at Orly airport this evening in a chartered Swiss aircraft.

Mr Louis de Guingaud, the Foreign Minister, was on hand at the airport to welcome them home and to express officially to Dr Waldheim the French Government's gratitude for the part he played in the negotiations for their release.

The homecoming ceremony took place in the VIP lounge at the airport. As well as the hostages' relatives, the Minister of the Interior, the vice-president of the French Red Cross, a representative of the League for the Rights of Man, and one from the Mauritanian mining company which employed the hostages, were also on hand.

The press was allowed to watch the emotional reunion scenes from a balcony, but could not mingle with the hostages or interview them. This was to avoid both an unseemly "fare for all" and the airing of names.

Hostages, some of whom appear to have been brainwashed during their long detention, of Polisario-inspired propaganda against the French government.

The press exclusion was provoked partly from left-wing journalists' unions against so-called "muzzling of the press" and against the Government's attempts to prevent the hostages repeating on French soil the opinions they expressed at Tindouf (in Algeria) which were in complete contradiction with the official Government line.

The eight hostages appeared to be in good health. They had laid aside their army fatigues for new suits, shirts, and ties, while Mme Nicole Foulon, the only woman among them, was wearing a very smart suede suit.

In his speech of welcome, Mr de Guingaud assured them that the whole French people had shared in their trials and rejoiced in their liberation. He did not doubt now that they were free, they would appreciate the full extent of the efforts of the French Government to have them released, as well as those of many foreign statesmen.

Participants said they had a more complete picture than they had received from fragmented statements by Mr Begin to the American media, but they were sworn to secrecy.

The scheme is expected to be made public after the meeting with Mr Sadat. The Knesset is to hear a report from the Prime Minister next week after he returns from Ismailia.

Earlier this morning, Mr Begin reported to the parliamentary foreign affairs and security committee whose members had complained of not having been consulted earlier. The committee debate was not concluded and it is to continue tomorrow night after the end of the Israeli Sabbath.

Mr Shmuel Peres, leader of the Labour opposition, said after the meeting: "I don't change my mind easily."

The participants of this meeting were also pledged to secrecy. However Mr Peres, on the basis of news reports, had earlier criticized the proposal

reports of heavy legal sanctions imposed in newspapers causing severe financial constraints and difficulties. We urge you to respect the freedom of the press and not to resort to the repression of all forms of criticism, a practice unknown in democratic countries.

"I enclose a list of journalists about whom we are greatly concerned. Ten have been detained without trial under the Terrorism Act, three are being held under the Internal Security Act, and three have been banned. We are particularly anxious about the case of Tony Holiday, whose health is suffering. We urge you to release him as soon as possible to ensure that he receives proper medical attention.

"We have also just heard about the arrest on December 19 of two journalists with *The Voice*, Phil Mthimkulu and Mrs Judy Mayet. Mrs Mayet is a widow and a mother of seven children, and she is solely responsible for the financial support of her family.

"We would like assurances that your Government will cease harassment of journalists and the press and release all journalists who are now in detention."—Agence France Presse.

"We receive constant

Institute plea for S Africa to free 18 journalists

The International Press Institute has urged Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, to release 18 South African journalists in detention and to give assurances that Pretoria "will cease harassment of journalists and the press".

Mr Peter Gellner, director of the London-based institute, which represents more than 1,800 editors throughout the world, has sent the appeal to Mr Vorster and Mr James Kruger, the Minister of Justice.

In his message, the text of which was released yesterday, Mr Gellner asked the South African Government to release Mr Anthony Holiday as soon as possible and to ensure that he receives proper medical attention.

It brings to the Prime Minister's attention the case of Mrs Judy Mayet, a widow and a mother of seven children who is solely responsible for the financial support of her family.

His message states: "The International Press Institute is still very concerned about the detention and banning of a number of journalists in South Africa. We are very distressed to witness the deterioration of the status of the press in your country."—Agence France Presse.

Biko damages claims sent to Government ministers

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Dec 23

Letters containing large claims for damages arising out of the death in police detention of Steve Biko, the South African Black Consciousness leader, were today sent to Mr Kruger, the Minister of Justice, and Dr van der Merwe, the Minister of Health.

The total amount being claimed is reported to be in the region of \$210,000, although Mr Shum Chetty, the Biko family lawyer, declined today to confirm this figure. If correct, it would be one of the largest civil claims ever made in South Africa.

Mr Kruger is being sued as Minister responsible for the security police, in whose

custody Mr Biko was being held up to the time of his death on September 12. Dr van der Merwe is regarded as responsible for the district surgeon, Dr Benjamin Tuck and Dr Ivor Lang, who attended Mr Biko after he had been hurt during an alleged scuffle with the security police.

At the inquest, Mr Sydney Kentridge, counsel for the Biko family, accused the two doctors of joining the security police in this conspiracy of silence related to Mr Biko's condition. The inquest verdict was that one could be held responsible for Mr Biko's death.

Under South African law, unless the demand is met within 30 days the family can sue in a civil case.

Feuding chess challengers agree to play on today

From Our Correspondent
Belgrade, Dec 23

A temporary solution was found today to the dispute between Boris Spassky and Viktor Korchnoi, the world chess title challengers, and the 20-game match will be resumed tomorrow.

The compromise was reached after Dr Max Euwe, president of the International Chess Federation, had spent all night in separate talks with the two players.

The dispute is over whether a demonstration board should be within sight of the players. Korchnoi complained after Spassky had spent most of the eleventh game away from the table, studying the position on the demonstration board and resuming only to make his move.

When the referee ruled that in future the demonstration

board should be out of sight, a temporary solution was found today to the dispute between Boris Spassky and Viktor Korchnoi, the world chess title challengers, and the 20-game match will be resumed tomorrow.

What happens after that is uncertain as both players are insisting on their point. It will need all of Dr Euwe's persuasive powers to save the match.

On a separate issue, the organizing committee decided today that the pieces with which the first 10 games were played should be used again. Spassky, who originally chose them himself, had the challenge rejected.

The match is to decide who will challenge Anatoly Karpov for the world championship. At present Korchnoi leads 6½-3½.

Argentina 'tops list for jailing innocents'

Washington, Dec 23.—There are more innocent victims in prison in Argentina than in all the rest of South America, according to a report on human rights issued here by the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, a private organization.

This year, no Latin American country had a greater number of human rights violations than Argentina. It had 18,000 political prisoners, a figure supported by information from various sources, some official.

Uruguay and Argentina are listed as the least respectful of human rights, together with Chile, where a totalitarian system was being set up.

The council listed Paraguay, Bolivia, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala as countries with only slight respect for

human rights. It called for clemency for Peru and Ecuador.

Venezuela was best and Brazil was improving, but no nation deserved good marks in respect for human rights, the report said. Even in Mexico and Costa Rica, where human rights were far better than in most of Latin America, there were many political prisoners.

Buenos Aires: A "sizeable" number of political prisoners will be freed before the end of the year, the newspaper *La Opinion* reported. Those released would be prisoners who were not facing trial or implicated in "subversive activities".

London: Latin American Newsletters said it was taking up with the British Foreign Office the disappearance in Presse.

Opposition in Likud to peace plan is crushed

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Dec 24

Opposition to Mr Begin's Middle East peace plan inside the ruling Likud Party was crushed in Jerusalem today when a caucus of the party's Knesset faction endorsed the Prime Minister's proposals by 29 votes to two with one abstention.

The caucus was closed to the press, but the opponents, Miss Geula Cohen and Mr Meir Shamir, are known to have objected to the proposals concerning the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which they claimed effectively renounced Jewish sovereignty over those parts of the ancestral Jewish land.

At the three-and-a-half-hour meeting the Likud deputies for the first time heard from their leader a detailed outline of the proposals for peace with Egypt, and guidelines for a settlement of the Palestinian problem which Mr Begin is to present to President Sadat in Ismailia on Sunday.

Participants said they had a more complete picture than they had received from fragmented statements by Mr Begin to the American media, but they were sworn to secrecy.

The scheme is expected to be made public after the meeting with Mr Sadat. The Knesset is to hear a report from the Prime Minister next week after he returns from Ismailia.

Earlier this morning, Mr Begin reported to the parliamentary foreign affairs and security committee whose members had complained of not having been consulted earlier.

The committee debate was not concluded and it is to continue tomorrow night after the end of the Israeli Sabbath.

Mr Shmuel Peres, leader of the Labour opposition, said after the meeting: "I don't change my mind easily."

The participants of this meeting were also pledged to secrecy. However Mr Peres, on the basis of news reports, had earlier criticized the proposal

Leading article, page 13



President Sadat at prayers with Mr Osman Ahmad Osman, his father-in-law, yesterday at a mosque near Ismailia, in the West Bank and Gaza strip.

giving autonomy to the Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza strip.

can show him Mr Begin's proposals, and that the United States and Britain had given them "a greater degree of encouragement than they usually give Israeli plans".

Jerusalem: Mr Amnon Rubinstein, a leading moderate from the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC), said after hearing Mr Begin's plans that he thought it was now up to the Arabs to show a spirit of compromise.

Mr Begn has made some major, but half-hearted concessions and it takes two to compromise", he told reporters.

"I think Egypt and the Arabs should show compromise too. There is no question of accepting an Arab *Diktat*.

Leading article, page 13

giving autonomy to the Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza strip.

It will also have to make do with F14 jet fighters, perhaps taking F18s instead.

The commercial and political battle between the builders of these two fighters continues.

The American budget year begins on October 1. President Carter, like practically every other presidential candidate in history, promised during the election campaign that he would cut waste out of the defence budget.

He claims he has done so, and he did indeed cancel the E1 bomber last spring. But at the same time he has allowed the defence budget to increase both in real terms and as a proportion of Government spending.

US defence spending to rise by £9,300m

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Dec 25

The next American defence budget will total \$126,000m (£74,000m). This is \$9,300m more than the present budget, an increase of about 2 per cent in real terms.

The budget will be spent on \$130,000m and the Navy, in particular, is much dismayed at the President's decision to give it much less. These figures, and the Navy's reaction, have been leaked to newspapers today.

Every year, at about this time, papers publish inspired stories of how the safety of the public is being threatened by the President's hard-hearted refusal to give the Pentagon what it needs.

The budget will be submitted to Congress at the end of January and immediately the generals and admirals will start issuing public warnings that the Russians are drawing ahead even faster than the Americans and a few more billions for defence will save the union.

Congress and most commentators usually respond calmly to these philippics. They have heard them all before. Another reason for their calm is that the Pentagon often fails to spend all the money it is given.

The Navy is well behind on spending for the present year and will be allowed to build 15 new ships for \$47,700m instead of the 19 planned at \$5,800m which the Pentagon would like to do with \$42,000m.

It will also have to make do with F14 jet fighters, perhaps taking F18s instead. The commercial and political battle between the builders of these two fighters continues.

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Salisbury evidence of women guerrillas

From Frederick Cleary
Salisbury, Dec 23

Rhodesia today reached somewhat feebly and belatedly, to define with much greater exactness, what the women of Zimbabwe must play along the path of the revolution.

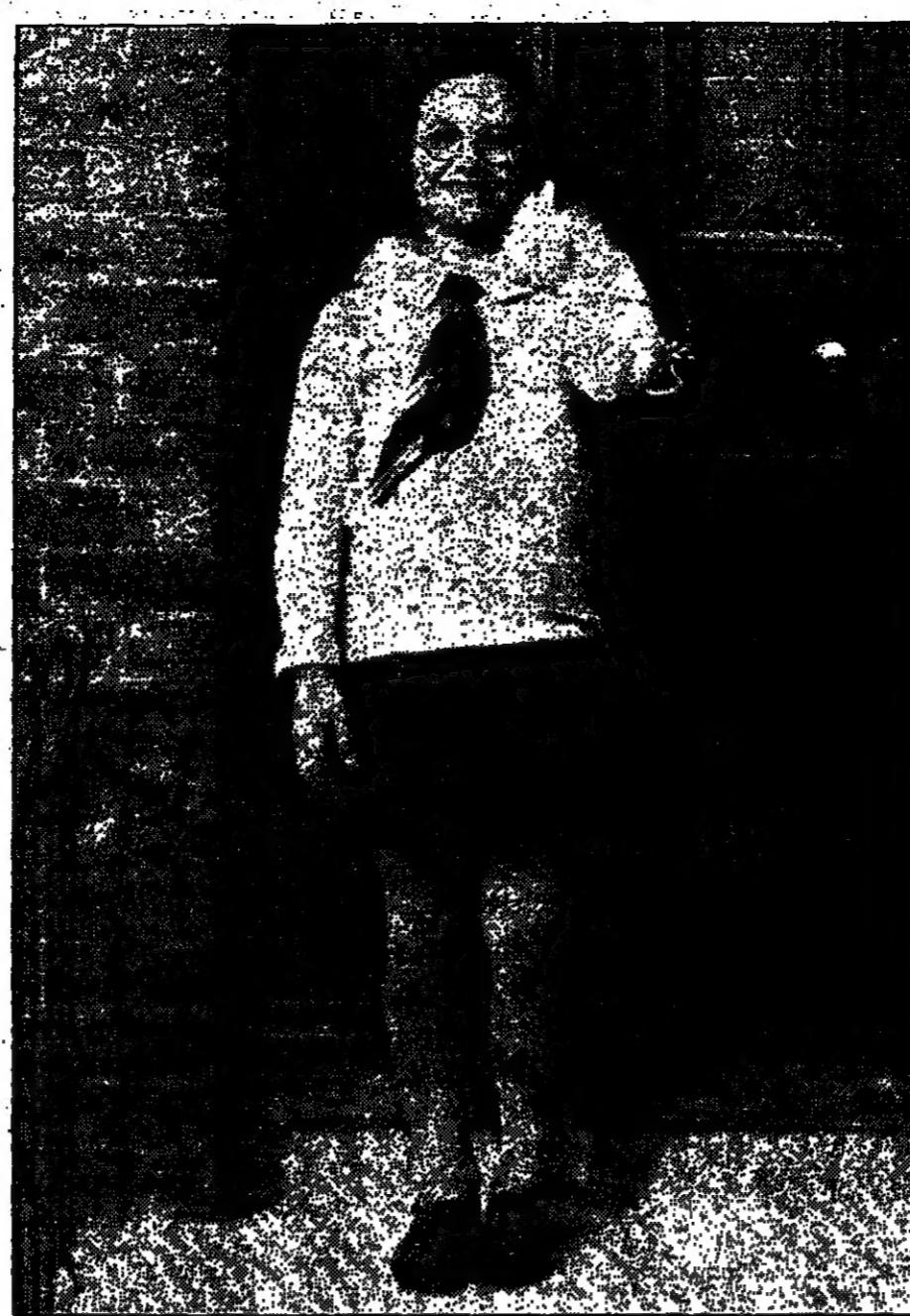
Pictures of women being trained in the camps were also handed out. The official said the documents and photographs were to counter allegations of innocent civilians being killed at Chimoio.

Local journalists at the short briefing wondered why the Rhodesian authorities waited until the United Nations report was published locally before attempting to counter the allegations. Why the fuss when last week's *Sunday Mail*, the commando newspaper, which claimed

Saturday Review



Above : Bertie Fletcher ("Asterisk") aged about 10



Above left : Penelope with rabbit at Siles, The Grove, Deal, Kent

Above : wedding picture of Robert and Penelope Mortimer

Uncle Bertie

by Penelope Mortimer

Each of my grandmother's bore 11 children. This fact is one of the few things my father and mother had in common, and with it an early apprenticeship to death. Brothers and sisters died frequently. They were commemorated in canopic jars, mounting rings and letters of Faculty Bibles—Elise, Charlie, May, Jack—all buried ghosts long before I was born. Not only the siblings, but the fathers too went early to death, possibly in the hope of gaining more health, wealth and wisdom in another world. They were both in their graves by the time they were in their late forties, leaving 22 children and two wives between them, to carry on the family business as best they might. I never knew my grandfather, and seldom speculated about them. It is only now, as I write about them, that their personalities become interesting.

I have no idea what my father's father, Robert, looked like. In the one photograph I have—a wedding picture, fancy, from the stern and determined expressions on both my grandparents' relatively young faces—he is indistinguishable from any other early Victorian middle class burgher: straight backed, stiff collared, moderately whiskered, a model of reliability and moral hygiene. He died, I believe, from swallowing a stone. He was a printseller in the shop; though I heard that in the year I last past he had rotted in many directions, gathering no moss.

His letters to my schoolboy father were domestic, anxious, even kind—or they showed the jocular cruelty that fathers often used in order to be kind:

4th March 1895—My darling boy . . . I have been very busy and Mother is laid up with a nasty attack of influenza, she has been in bed since Wednesday and has been very poorly indeed . . . I hope it won't be so bad as you expect about the sickness in the School . . . if they are obliged to close the School I should think Mr Hall would keep his own boarders on until the proper time for breaking up. We shall soon be moving into our new house. Elsie is in for an attack of influenza I am afraid. I left her in bed this morning . . . am glad you are doing better this term. I hope you will continue in the same good way. I don't really think I can manage to find time to write any more now as I have such a lot to do . . .

13th March 1895—I am glad to say that Mother and Jessie are both better and able to be out, but poor little Phyllis has been very poorly and is in bed today . . . I hope you will keep up your carpentering as there is a nice carpenter's shop in the garden at Strood and there will be plenty of work

for us all . . . I hope you will be in a good position in your form until the holidays—an excuse, mind! . . . Now old boy I really can't stay to say any more as they are waiting to set the tea table . . .

8th April 1895—Wednesday is the dreadful day on which you leave your dear school and come to the miserable place known as "home". If you don't like the idea of coming away I can arrange with Mr Hall for you to stay at Balswick during the holidays, but if you would like, just a little bit, to come to us, Bertie shall meet you in London and come down with you. Now you must be sure and catch the train I give you—it leaves Woodford at five minutes to ten. You must take a ticket to Fenchurch Street and Bertie will be there to meet you. It is a Fenchurch Street train so you will not have to change. You will then arrive at Strood soon after twelve o'clock. I enclose your postal order for three shillings which will be more than you will want you can account to me for the change on Wednesday. . . . Don't be late and be sure to go to Fenchurch Street . . .

5th May 1895—I'm very glad to tell you that dear little Phyllis is better today. I shall be very pleased for you to bring Cobie with you on Friday. You must be sure and not be late in getting to Cheapside, as I expect there will be a pretty considerable crowd. I enclose a postal order for four shillings which you can give to Bertie to pay for your railway fares to London and back and the change you can give me when I see you. Mind you don't forget . . . Your loving Father.

He sounds an amiable, harassed man; my father never spoke of him to me, and I never asked. Compared with my grandmother, he had obviously even to his children, been irrelevant.

I didn't like my paternal grandmother. Her name was Eleanor ("Nellie" to those friends she had) and she was large, fierce and demonstrative as my mother's mother was. She had a large waist, or possibly mole, on her left cheek which I imagined—with the rich disgust I chewed through the Sunday roast—biting off. It seemed to me that she lived in a poky, dark house, though this was probably because she was the kind of woman who overflowed normal furniture and could have filled a small ballroom with her moody presence, the house (Siles, The Grove, Deal, Kent)—how many envelopes reluctantly addressed, letters even more reluctantly written?—was probably the usual gloomy, was probably the garden at Strood and there will be plenty of work

in shrubs; it would be considered, nowadays, suitable for housing a fair-sized private school or nursing home.

I remember nothing vital about it, such as the kitchen or lavatory, or the room in which I slept on my occasional visits, only the over-crowded drawing room, my grandmother clasping me to some part of herself while I struggled for breath against what may have been bombazine and was certainly whalebone; the anguish transmitted to me where I hid under the table as my father, the National Trust, was heavily accompanied by my grandmother at the piano (why do I think it was an harmonium?) and I thought he was preparing to die after leaving me in her terrible charge.

There were aunts in this unhappy house: Jessie and "dear little Phyllis". The former, in my memory, was a venomous woman, with all the fragrance of vinegar, a devotee of the Methodist Chapel, a scrawny, sour creature. Nevertheless, it was Jessie I wrote to from school when I lost my purse; it was Jessie who sent me a new shilling note and didn't, as far as I know, tell my father. Why did I choose her to confide in? Why the eye of a child is unreliable, the eye of memory often fallacious. Meeting Jessie again for the first time in over forty years, I see her as a woman unable to deal with her frustrations, exacerbated by the demands of a hysteric mother . . . But the way I saw her then, and the way I truthfully remember her now, is a lot more interesting: a shrew, a wench, acid-tongued with glittering, raty-eyes and a bundle of old hair. Distorted by imagination, she achieves a kind of Grimm-like originality.

Phyllis, a pleasant-faced person of indeterminate age, was always confusingly referred to as "the baby". I assume she was the eleventh child and—in spite of Robert's concern for his infant shuffles—grew up fatherless. There was always something faintly daring about Phyllis; almost, to my puritanical child's mind, risqué. She seemed to laugh more often than the rest of the family, which, since they seldom seemed to laugh, was all the more memorable. I even had the feeling—unexplainable, vaguely troubling—that my brother's attitude towards her was not entirely nephew-like. Perhaps she was pretty—I don't know. She married, anyway, and in later life became a driving instructor, punctuating the devil-may-care image, skirts occasionally riding above the knee. Cancer ravaged this family, and Phyllis was the first woman I ever knew to have a mastectomy. Not only did she have one, she talked about it. But by that time I must have been in my teens and aware of the fact that women had breasts until I grew them myself, I didn't notice their existence.

When he was twenty seven, a legacy (so the story goes) enabled him to enter Oxford—an elderly undergraduate, to be sure, but at least he went to a distinguished college and undoubtedly made the most of it; whereas my father, in his mid-thirties, struggled on in some minor institution that I do not know his name or where he lived, but recall that he wrote my father a letter when I was about thirteen. It began (I can see the script now sloping and orderly) "Hi, you old sky-pilot!" My father, appalled, dropped it, obscenely, into the wastepaper basket, from which I am sure (he was very lonely) he recovered it.

The rest of my father's siblings escaped, in various ways, from my grandmother, their loving mother. A sister, I believe, ran off with an organist and "lived in sin" wherever that was. She was never mentioned. A brother emigrated to America—I do not know his name or where he lived, but recall that he wrote my father a letter when I was about thirteen. It began (I can see the script now sloping and orderly) "Hi, you old sky-pilot!" My father, appalled, dropped it, obscenely, into the wastepaper basket, from which I am sure (he was very lonely) he recovered it.

Another, younger brother, Frank? Fred?—landed up in Sydney, Australia, where he edited a newspaper, got into trouble ("Drunk and gambling" whispered my mother, perhaps with a touch of spite) and shot himself. He was married and fathered what seemed to me an inordinate number of children—they arrived in Deal long after the scandalous event, and shattered the rumpid gloom with their unprudish accents and high spirits. In retrospect, I preferred them to my other Australian cousins, my mother's nephews and nieces, who dogged my childhood with their dreadful adolescence, pibility of soul and aptitude for marmiteisms. One of these last, and I shall repeat this, for it awes me—became a Bishop.

No member of my father's family achieved such eminence: except, on my own rating, Uncle Bertie. Bertie was the eldest, the first son. My grandfather, for all of us, was the last; he died in adult life, must be reserved until later; as a child, I was not allowed to read it. ("Though nothing will be found here to titillate the salacious," writes Bohun Lynch in his introduction, "the book is not recommended for the nursery shelf.") For my Uncle Bertie had not only betrayed his country, keeping his distance in its time of need. He had betrayed an entire ethic and, perhaps, himself, by having a liaison with a native woman, siring various indelibly coloured children, and by making the whole unsavoury business public, so that his mother could never hold up her head in Deal again.

Perverse of me, I'm sure, but these unknown cousins—imagine they are to this day beautiful, hibiscus, in their hair, noble and like and the colour of sandalwood—are my favourite contemporaries. I adhore stubbornly to them, and quite unrepentant. I

cannot help preferring little boys to little girls. I can amuse myself by building castles for boys. I know so little about the other sex . . .

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When my father was heavy and blunt, Bertie was sharp-something of his sister Jessie in the way he could set your teeth on edge; but, being a man, he was free to express his rather jaundiced view of life in wit rather than venom.

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quaint laugher, in the process of becoming mature himself. He is married—to a lady of his mother's complexion—has two children, a nice pink plumpness and a happy home. So he is, doubtless, a success. These cousins must be a decade or so older than I am, and have never heard of me, or Dead, or their grandmother who was feared by God. Uncle Bertie abandoned them, it seems, without conscience. I hope they all prospered, that they, to a warmer climate, have made better choices than I did; whereas my father, in his mid-thirties, struggled on in some minor institution that I always imagine as being on the outskirts of Cowley. My father, though he may not have known it, hated Bertie. I loved him.

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long white hair, which for some reason I called Gashah. As usual, Bertie returned to "ushering", and seems to have drifted out of my life for a while. I remember little about him during the next nine years. I simply do not know why I insisted that my husband and I went to stay with him and his wife at the end of our honeymoon. It seems extraordinary, but speculate, but speculation is irrelevant.

Bertie was teaching in Bude, Cornwall; we had spent the first week or so in lodgings in Sidmouth, because that is what there. I was told that he had done in Bude, or so it was, for a family friend, a doctor, who I don't know. Bertie was right in believing that I would never forget what he gave me that day: a taste of freedom; possibly, even, a taste for it. Girl though I was, my Uncle Bertie built me a castle.

Curiously, there was a woman involved. I know nothing about her except her name: Diane. It was an improbable name, in contrast with Bertie, particularly as the wife of Kent. However, Diane was there; I liked her. She was the only girl in the world around me. I had changed my name, and was unfamiliar with my alias. Perhaps I went to Bude to say goodbye. I don't know. I can't remember ever seeing Bertie again.

He retired to a house in Deal, where he lived alone, transcribing books into Braille and cherishing the remnants of few possessions: "Do you read French?" he would ask. "If so, do you know Bertie? I read and enjoyed French. For years I have toyed with the idea of writing a life of Sanchez Panta. I still toy." I was corresponding with him in the late fifties, as I was writing a profile of my father and discovered, rather too late, that I knew nothing about him. "Please," he wrote, "don't let this Lazarus correspondence die again. I am tragically alone mentally, but I cheer up wonderfully at threatened contact—I am very lonely mentally. So please, my dear, be generous with your letters . . ."

It was then that he sent me a faded copy of *Isles of Illusion* inscribed, "To Penelope Mortimer (Peggy) from Uncle Bertie, a very little star, long set, to a rising larger one". I realize now, for the first time, that Bertie was the only one of my entire family who, without resentment, bewilderment or disapproval, might have been proud of me. I do not know when he died.

© Penelope Mortimer 1975. Penelope Mortimer is currently working on the autobiographical account of the years up to her twenty-first birthday, from which this extract is taken. It will be published by Allen Lane under the title *About Time*.

Full Christmas holiday

Television and Radio programmes

Christmas Eve

6.30 pm BBC 1 No Christmas would be complete without Disney, and the BBC's first offering is the magnificently photographed *Third Man on the Mountain*.
6.30 pm BBC 2 At the same time on the other channel is the somewhat sombre, but splendidly cast new production of *A Christmas Carol*.
9.40 pm ITV ATVs *Bing Crosby* special, with Stanley Baxter putting in his first Christmas appearance, will bring many a nostalgic lump to the throat.—I.R.R.

BBC 1

8.55 Bagpuss.
9.10 *Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe*.
9.30 *Lord Edmonds presents the Story of the Popes*, with Elvis Presley.
12.40 pm Soviet Gymnastics Spectacular.
1.30 *White Christmas*, with Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, Vera-Ellen.
3.25 Jubilee 77 highlights.
5.25 *News*.
5.35 *BBC's Broadcasting Company*.
6.00 Superstars.
6.30 *Film: Third Man on the Mountain*, with Michael Rennie, James MacArthur, Donald Munro, James Donald.
8.15 *The Duchess Duke Street*.
9.05 *Dick Emery Christmas Show*.
9.50 *News* and *Horror*.
10.40 *News*.
10.50 *Andre Previn's Christmas Music Night*.
11.55 *Midnight Mass from Buckfast Abbey, Devon*.
1.15 am *Weather*.
* Black and white.
Regional variations (BBC 1):
NORTH WALES: 8.45-9.10 am, *News*.
9.15 pm, *Film: Flash SCOTLAND*.
12.45 pm, *Sports results* in Scotland.

BBC 2

9.10 am *Arlecchino (Servant of Two Masters)*, comedy by Carlo Goldoni.
3.45 pm *Film: Double Crossbones*, with Donald O'Connor, Helen Carter.
5.00 *Three Welcome Christmas*, with Brian Cant, Tom Arthur from *Play Away*.
5.30 *The Snow Queen*, fairy tale for television.
6.30 *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens, with Michael Hordern.
7.30 *Network*, from BBC North-East.
9.00 am *The Lively Arts*: Karen Kain ballerina, a profile.
9.30 pm *Film: The Flying Dances (1929)*, with Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy.
11.00 pm *News*.

ATV

9.10 am, *The Six Million Dollar Man*, 10.00, *Twiss*, 12.25 pm-12.15 am, London.
9.00 am *Southern*
9.00 am-12.20 am, London.
9.00 am *Grampian*
9.00 am-12.25 am, London.
9.00 am *Channel*
9.00 pm, *Film: The Legend of the Christmas Messenger*, 9.45, *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*, 10.15, *Film: The Three Worlds of Gulliver*, 12.25 pm-12.15 am, London.

Granada

9.20 am, *The Legend of the Christmas Messenger*, 9.45, *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*, 10.15, *Film: The Three Worlds of Gulliver*, 12.25 pm-12.15 am, London.
9.00 am *Scottish*
9.10 am, *ATV*, 12.25 pm, London.
9.00 am *Ulster*
9.00 am, *Channel*
9.00 am, *Network*, 12.25-12.15 am, London.

Radio

1 6.00 am, *News*, Tom Edwards, 8.00, *Tom Edwards*, 8.05, *Ed Stewart*, 10.00, *Kid Stewart*, 12.00, *Paul Gambaccini*, 12.30, *Quentin Crisp*, 1.30, *Alison Crisp*, 2.30, *John Peel*, 3.30, *Wade Kolt*, 6.30, *Music*, 7.30, *Top Tunes*, 8.30, *Radio Orchestra*, 10.00, *The Kinks*, 12.00, *2nd Disc*, 1.00, *3rd Disc*, 2.30, *4th Disc*, 4.30, *5th Disc*, 6.30, *6th Disc*, 8.30, *7th Disc*, 10.00, *8th Disc*, 12.00, *9th Disc*, 1.00, *10th Disc*, 3.00, *11th Disc*, 5.00, *12th Disc*, 7.00, *13th Disc*, 9.00, *14th Disc*, 11.00, *15th Disc*, 1.00, *16th Disc*, 3.00, *17th Disc*, 5.00, *18th Disc*, 7.00, *19th Disc*, 9.00, *20th Disc*, 11.00, *21st Disc*, 1.00, *22nd Disc*, 3.00, *23rd Disc*, 5.00, *24th Disc*, 7.00, *25th Disc*, 9.00, *26th Disc*, 11.00, *27th Disc*, 1.00, *28th Disc*, 3.00, *29th Disc*, 5.00, *30th Disc*, 7.00, *31st Disc*, 9.00, *32nd Disc*, 11.00, *33rd Disc*, 1.00, *34th Disc*, 3.00, *35th Disc*, 5.00, *36th Disc*, 7.00, *37th Disc*, 9.00, *38th Disc*, 11.00, *39th 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Television

In a normal week the real trouble with television is that so much of it is so good (or at least so important). From

those splendid, no-so-repeated plays, those seductive series, from those half-eaten documentaries, who shall escape? Certainly not the concerned citizen, and only

with difficulty the hedonist.

Throughout next week, which is not normal, the box in the corner will continue to exert. "Vanity, but the vanity will be a borrowed one. Take away the concerned mind of world cinema and what are you left with? Nothing. I would guess, worth missing a party or a walk in the country for. This column, one-eyed in the country of the blind, must deal with the squashy manner sandwiched between the classic films and the chief musical items, and is therefore written for security guards, lighthouse keepers, and for all those without getting into it, it prefers neither amusement to crass television boredom.

No point in discussing the high points of showbiz, nor the regular Christmas cornerstones. People like what they like. In our household we shall observe one Queen's Speech and as many Garland songs, Kelly leaps and Baxter skits as can comfortably be

fitted in. Benny Hill, Dick Emery, Verwood, Morecambe, Wise and Forsyth—everybody who is anybody gets their Christmas apostrophe. The Beeb shall lay down with the IRA, and a great schmaltz shall cover the land.

"Family" entertainment (ugh) is graced by "choreographers" (?) and I would be failing in my duty to readers if I omitted to mention the fact that *Ennui's Christmas Adventure* is even humper and more vacuous than prejudice might have suggested. I would equally be failing in my duty to London Weekend, who bravely offered a preview, if I did not also point out that this show is probably no worse than others of its kind which are wisely being withheld from critical view.

In *The All Star Record Breakers* 500 white-clad children Ruby Keeler tap their way through "East 42nd Street" at Television Centre. (Humbert!!) As assorted children's entertainers go in incongruous guises, monstrous instruments appear, and Kenneth Williams points the immoral. If you like this sort of thing, you'll love it.

For our household, Christmas Eve will offer no chance for safe round the channel buttons. Having unsuccessfully tried, when it was first broadcast, to stay the distance with the Italian production of *Golondri's Arlecchino* (BBC 2) we

enjoyed it when I saw it. A big boy now, Adrián Dantani still purveys the genuine article, and this long episode did justice to Wilkins' capacity for forging social disaster from the best intentions. There are some lovely ham performances, notably from Julian Orchard and Diana Dors, and John Davies directs with gusto. *To See Such Fun* (ITV), which should have been pure delight, is a profoundly irritating piece of work. The compilers of this misfane of comedy clips through the ages have cut and cut and cut, giving us a series of 30-second climaxes, like goals with kisses, the distillate of comedy rather than the living, breathing thing. It has considerable antiquarian interest however—early Howards, early Cliff Richard (how much younger he looks now), early Max Wall (how handsome then) and early Stanley Baxter (ugly!). One thing's sure: you won't actually laugh at this programme unless you've got a treble whisky in your hand.

There are some tender moments in *Selected Stories* (BBC 2). *You There?* (BBC 2) as 75,000 feet of jubilee film are boiled down to an essential 1,200. If you dip into this film somewhere near the middle—after *Train 0000's* stately progress—*the real thing*, not the TV series, still manages to be funny in its account of the disreputable Korean war service of the 4077th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, as its appearance in 1963 the film established Robert Alman as a key figure for the Seventies and revolutionised American film comedy. Also meriting second viewing are *Burt Kennedy's* 1968 blend of stand-up and real nostalgia for the Western. *Support Your Local Sheriff* (Monday, BBC 1, 11.30) and *Death at the Races* (Monday, BBC 2, 11.35 pm) vintage *Mark* Brothers with Margaret Dumont, in full cry as Mrs Emily Upjohn, Dr Hugo E. Hackenbush's favourite patient. "Marry me" says the doctor, a qualified vet, "and I'll never look at another horse." On Tuesday BBC 1 is showing *Billy Wilder's* bleak farce about the private habits of the American executive. *The Apartment* (11.15 pm).

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The other musicals are *Funny Girl* (Christmas Day, BBC 1, 10.05); William Wyler's 1965 bio-musical which casts comfortingly from cliché to cliché, though if you ever heard

it again I would not be surprised.

We may dip into the scrapbook of *Jubilee '77* (BBC 1) and we may quite possibly watch *Ennui's Christmas Adventure* (BBC 1) right through. If life is tough for the super-sensitive, catch child how much tougher it must be for the gifted animal? They need our support.

We shall most certainly watch *Elaine Morgan's* dramatization of *A Christmas Carol* (BBC 2). This is a lovingly put together piece of work in which the BBC's expertise in costume and period detail is harnessed to good effect. The transition from reality to dream and back again is deftly done, but at the expense of the story's original message. *Clive Exton's Christmas Adventure* (ITV) is the kick-off for an interesting series showing costumed movies by the earlier club-camera enthusiasts. Then—of course—*The Big Sleep*.

On Boxing Day our television will turn into a cinema—*War and Peace* and *Gunsmoke*.

Wednesday evening offers a direct clash between new artifacts, and I can unhesitatingly recommend *Our Day Out* (BBC 2) in preference to *Washington: Behind Closed Doors* (BBC 1), which is where this new six-part hack epic should have remained hidden, if the first episode is anything to go by. It is true that *Watergate*, which was about grimy machinations by grimy little men, was successfully given a romantic face in *All the President's Men*, but this gent dwells largely on the clenched jaws, the smiles and even the armfuls of the men at the centre. It keeps trying to end but, each time, on it goes again. "It's a long time," says Jason Robards, "as he carries on his campaign jet, in yet another bid to summon up the credits. "Don't worry, sir. The good times are coming," says an aide brightly. "I'm not so sure."

Willy Russell's play *Our Day Out* will not be a highly original and witty sci-fi film.

Kern (BBC 1) is a second time, I suppose, I love Arthur Schwarzkopf's corn-cracker voice, or his plucking way of playing the piano, nor even for the coarse-grained studio performances of the master's timeless numbers. Schwarzkopf's basic recipe just is a good one—he makes a strong case for regarding *Kern* as a cultural milestone, and the

hour is painlessly crammed with unused information.

I can only report on the second half of the Czech film of *The Little Mermaid* (BBC 2) which gets its British premiere next Friday. A spell was cast on the video link between Shepherds Bush and Piccadilly and all we got for the first half hour was a soundtrack (the first two minutes sounded suspiciously like a blue movie). The director, who goes in for a lot of artistic water photography, clearly admires Hockney, and some of the aqueous scenery is a real delight. But the whole thing has a slightly cardboard quality from the dubbing and dialogue ("Don't be angry with me, O serpentess") to the pretty hairdos of the fairies and her pretty prince, Silvkin. In the review, later in the evening, we shall watch the convivial *Mosin Hamilisch* (BBC 2) in preference to the first episode of *The Professionals* (ITV), and the day will end with *Khate*.

Wassau? Newyearzhev? Ah. Showgavleg. Cheerzh, anyway. Dled-moush? Why—roybeller? Shwitzt iroff. OFF. Ith people nigh! Cheerzh!

Michael Church

TV films

With the BBC offering more than 30 feature films and ITV adding another dozen, there should be enough to keep anyone from whimpering because they can't get tickets for *Star Wars*. ITV, it must be said, could have been a bit more seasonal in their choices. Their big ones are Richard Ardenborough's debut 1971 biography of Young Winston (Christmas Day, 7.15) and J. Lee Thompson's *The Guns of Navarone* (Boxing Day, 2.30). Their best (which is not at all the same thing) are Stephen Frears' funny and beautiful first *Slam Gunshoe* (Boxing Day, 10.30) with Albert Finney as a would-be Bogart from the Industrial North; and, for nostalgia, Sam Wood's 1943 *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (Wednesday, 10.20).

Otherwise, ITV can come up with nothing better than a sub-standard Alastair MacLean thriller, Michael Tuchner's 1972 *Fear is the Key* (Tuesday, 8.30), and a couple of films that didn't quite: Lionel Jeffries' rate of time-travellers for children, *The Amazing Mr Blunden* (Tuesday, 2.30) and Jacques Demy's weird *The Pied Piper* (Tuesday, 11.05 am, made in Britain in 1971, with Donovan in the title role).

The BBC's season offerings start today with *White Christmas* (BBC 1, 1.30). *Bing Crosby* has been singing the title song since 1942 and a better film, *Holiday Inn*, but this is a nice enough putting-on-a-show musical, with 12 Irving Berlin numbers and *Bing* and *Danny Kaye* as old army huddles reaming up with *Rosemary Clooney* and *Vera-Ellen* (dubbed by *Trudy Stevens*) to save their old CO's winter holiday inn. Tomorrow (BBC 1, 4.10) Dorothy takes to the Yellow Brick Road in the now traditional Christmas Day screening of the unfading *The Wizard of Oz*; and for the fourth day of Christmas (Wednesday, BBC 1, 2 pm) there are Charles Walters' *The Glass Slipper*, a pretty *Cinderella* with *Leslie Caron*, but a bit too arty for its own good; and *These Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines* (BBC 1, 6.50), Britain's rather long-winded riposte to *The Great Race*. Directed by Ken Annakin, it has *Stuart Whitman* and *Alberto Sordi* alongside a bevy of domestic stars (including the fat *Tony Hancock*), and some lovely old aeroplanes.

Other juvenile offerings tomorrow are two Disney drama about a boy who dreams of being a mountain like his father, *Third Man on the Mountain* (BBC 1, 6.30), also directed by Ken Annakin; and *National Velvet* (BBC 1, 11.45 am) which was the making of 12-year-old Elizabeth Taylor who won the role which was the junior league equivalent of *Scarlett O'Hara*.

The other musicals are *Funny Girl* (Christmas Day, BBC 1, 10.05); *William Wyler's* 1965 bio-musical which casts comfortingly from cliché to cliché, though if you ever heard

Fanny Brice sing "My Man", *Barbra Streisand* won't do the 1961 *West Side Story* (Tuesday, BBC 1, 9.35), directed (in succession) by Jerome Robbins and Robert Wise, which, while it looks a bit heavy in fact, even all those Oscars and the 1953 *Calamity Jane* (Friday, BBC 1, 6.50), a very likeable and unpretentious piece of Americana, with *Howard Keel* and *Doris Day*.

Day. Though not a musical, MGM's 1948 version of *The Three Musketeers* (Friday, BBC 1, 1.55) derived a remarkable rhythmic and choreographic quality from the young *Gene Kelly's* swashbuckling in the role of D'Artagnan.

For Comedy there is a practical comedy, *John O'Connor's* vehicle *Double Crossbones*, the afternoon *Double Crossbones* (BBC 2, 3.45), and no *M*A*S*H* (BBC 2, 11.15 pm).

The real thing, not the TV series, still manages to be funny in its account of the disreputable Korean war service of the 4077th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, as its appearance in 1963 the film established Robert Alman as a key figure for the Seventies and revolutionised American film comedy. Also meriting second viewing are *Burt Kennedy's* 1968 blend of stand-up and real nostalgia for the Western. *Support Your Local Sheriff* (Monday, BBC 1, 11.30) and *Death at the Races* (Monday, BBC 2, 11.35 pm) vintage *Mark* Brothers with Margaret Dumont, in full cry as Mrs Emily Upjohn, Dr Hugo E. Hackenbush's favourite patient. "Marry me" says the doctor, a qualified vet, "and I'll never look at another horse."

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unite Bethlehem, Bavaria, Jamaica, Columbia, New Zealand, Azay-le-Rideau on the French Loire, and Westminster Abbey (it is repeated next morning at 8.55 on BBC 1).

After that *The Old Grey Whistle Test* has a live relay of the Kinks' Christmas concert at the Rainbow in London, also to be heard in stereo on Radio 1.

At 10.30 (if you resist the original film of *M*A*S*H*) BBC 1 offers André Previn's *Christmas Music Night*, with *Lillian Watson* and *King's Choir* to sing, *Judi Dench* to read poetry, while *John Williams*, *Osian Ellis*, the *Philip Jones Brass Ensemble* and the *LSO* play music. Finally *Midnight Mass* is telecast from Buckfast Abbey, also on BBC 1.

If, after all that, the Christmas present is wrapped, all are ready for Father Christmas, and you are able to wake up on Christmas morning inclined for more music, at 8 am Radio London broadcasts carols old and new in *Christmas Present*, and in *Christmas Soul* on *Boxing Day* to 10.30 pm and again on *Christmas Day* to 10.30 pm.

The carols include Britten's "Hymn to the Virgin", Walton's "King Herod" and the "Cock", as well as such standard favourites as *Coronation's* "Three Kings" and "Quelle est cette odeur agréable". At 5.45 on *Christmas Day* with *Lillian Watson* and *King's Choir* to sing, *Judi Dench* to read poetry, while *John Williams*, *Osian Ellis*, the *Philip Jones Brass Ensemble* and the *LSO* play music. Finally *Midnight Mass* is telecast from Buckfast Abbey, also on BBC 1.

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Unless *Christmas Dinner* is early, or rather late, it may have to compete with BBC 1 and part one of *Top of the Pops* 77 at 2.10. It is followed by Schubert's eighth and ninth symphonies, broadcast from the *Aldeburgh Festival* last June by Janet Baker, John Shirley-Quirk and Steuart Bedford, a memorable event to be revisited. That is followed, at 7.40, by Schubert's eighth and ninth symphonies, broadcast from the *Hohenems in Austria* by the Vienna Philharmonic and the *London Symphony* under *Karajan*.

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لماذا امتحان الامتحان

The Times Jumbo Crossword

Prizes of £10 will be given to each of the first three correct solutions opened on January 5. Entries should be addressed to The Times Christmas Jumbo Crossword, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT. The solution and prizewinners will be announced on January 7.

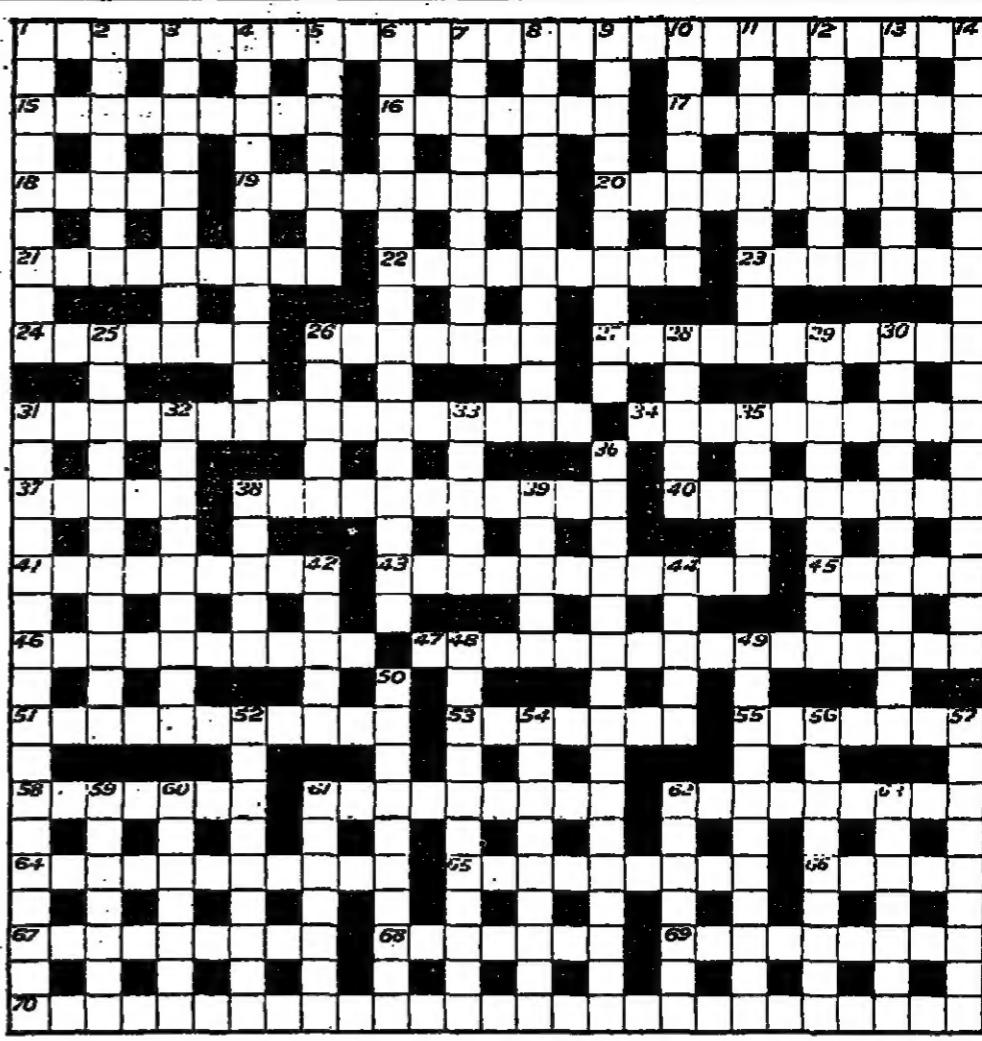
ACROSS

- Old play suggesting the pounding of mortar fire, Sir? (3, 6, 1, 3, 7, 6).
- Father consumes bread when on his beat (9).
- Caught in it, Eric looks jaundiced (7).
- 999 OK, if one breaks a leg? (8).
- Where Crockett fell, beat in a ring (5).
- Refreshment here in summer abroad in the wilds of Africa (9).
- Such sweet delight relaxing in one? (7, 4).
- Goes on turning one into solid shapes (9).
- Expel? A cut that's ruinous—so prove innocence (9).
- Agent in stirring up physical defences (7).
- How a lawyer says his piece indeed! (7).
- Surrounded by the enemy, what can the poor deer do? (7).
- Must take something for this complaint (11).
- Cadet's aim, to perish miserably in Sanders's office (16).
- Like the frowning brow of the Iron Duke? (10).
- He who thus hesitated was wrong? (5).
- Very odd way to give longs a treat! (11).
- Type of artemisia used for flavouring a Spanish wine (3).
- Stop cooking mice, sage (9).
- George's salmonella fish seems lively enough on the beach (4-7).
- A game of cards in it is far from fitting (5).
- One's engrossment with drinking perhaps (10).
- The best defence they say—to a shop-inspector's bad report? (7-9).

- She experienced a spot of bother, to put it mildly (4, 7).
- The last thing Henry King or Mrs Leo Hunter's frog does (7).
- He claims he's got what Richard III lacked (7).
- Throwing-stick with point, having much in common with a boomerang (7).
- Describe men, including many, many other things (9).
- This old man of Dordogne chewed mango and corn (3-6).
- Slowing down has torn about everything and comes to nothing (11).
- Two wild geese capture a French bark (9).
- Small change in ancient Rome for fools (5).
- Theory men concocted in a word that's the same but different (9).
- Birds run wild within Hell-Gate (7).
- New rate by the board can be remedied (9).
- Good accidental prospects made the poet's struggle worthwhile (8, 4, 3, 4, 2, 6).

DOWN

- Cock of the cake-walk? (3-6).
- In progress abroad prepares to start at Waterloo (7).
- A coiner, in a manner of speaking (9).
- Where rabbits have difficulty in going down their holes (4-7).
- Charge-lists of first Football Association in need of revision (7).
- Proverbially, no such cowardice in Paris (16).
- Whereby a bowler cheats the batsmen (3, 6).
- Real big rise arranged for Italian infantry (11).
- "Chicanery" needed by drivers to circumvent them? (4-6).
- Some swimmers eventually duck out of this (7).
- Flirt with a ladies' man about tea-time (3).
- Record article in it with word of description (7).
- Head saw grand Chinese delicacy (7).
- One who won't forget being rooked at this old tavern? (8, 3, 6).
- They are for writing musical entertainments (5).
- With which fare A is happy (B is not) (3, 4, 4).
- One's included as in a new version of Faust—when inanity! (11).
- King of the Andes stole Turner's soul (10).
- Many a man speeding things up yields the whip (9).
- Change up in cases when horse-power is developed (9).
- One who might take the part of Roscius? (4-5).
- Note Nepalese leader going up with fresh vitality (9).
- Monks unofficially punting Titus about a pound up (7).
- It inspired a ballad by the lover of Jaques (7).
- Smallest note, a quid (7).
- Odd song about Lincoln turning up for lunch with a horse (7).



Name
Address

Travel

Bargains from the brochures



Barbados—a beach in the sun at a price you can afford.

A month ago, basking in the sun on a beach in Barbados, Christmas—and the traditional Christmas pastime of browsing through the holiday brochures—seemed a long way off. Now that it is Christmas, Barbados seems a long way off.

But it need not be. For one of the things that a dedicated brochure browser will quickly discover is that in 1978 a holiday in Barbados need cost only about the same as, say, a holiday in Greece.

The same is true of a whole host of other long-haul, and often exotic, destinations. In many cases these destinations are next year's biggest holiday bargains.

And this means that places like the Caribbean are no longer a rich man's playground. True, many of the West Indian islands are keyed to the American market and far from cheap. But for prices starting at £275 British Airways/Speedbird you can have a two-week holiday on the quaintly British-oriented yet none the less unashamedly Caribbean island of Barbados, staying in self-catering apartments. This inclusive deal represents a huge saving in the normal return air fare even though you will be using scheduled flights, and the island itself is not prohibitively expensive.

Shop in local markets, eat in small restaurants, picnic on the endless beaches, and you will find the cost of living far cheaper than in Britain. Taxi fares and car hire equate with British rates, but there are numerous good value island excursions including the not-to-be-missed cruise on the pirate ship Jolly Roger when your fare of £8 includes non-stop entertainment; all you can eat, all you can drink, and a dose-up of the stunning coastline of Barbados.

An inclusive holiday to Barbados would be my first election from the brochures in 1978 when holidaymakers will above all be seeking value for money. You do not have to stay in a self-catering apartment, of course—you can spend two weeks at the Cobblers' Cove Hotel in the north of the island, which is the nicest hotel that I stayed in anywhere in the world during 1977; but then the prices for a two-week holiday start at £455.

Most of the transatlantic holiday traffic next year will be heading farther north, however; to the United States. British tourism to the United States fell slightly this year, perhaps because people were waiting to see just how far the air fares would tumble. My brochures show a current low of £39 London-New York return (Laker), but this is aimed at long-stay visitors and anyway the price war may not be over yet. So it might be worth waiting. If you are planning a holiday in America, even if the fares stop falling, most inclusive tour operators have not yet caught up with the situation sufficiently to offer cut-price ground arrangements once you are there (an exception is Arrowsmith). But remember that cheap internal transport can be arranged in advance through travel agents here in Britain, and that the cost of living in America is still lower than ours.

The United States, then, must count as another 1978 holiday bargain—a fact which will undoubtedly bring about a big increase in the number of British visitors and mark a turning point in the development of the holiday market. The other big turning point next year will be the growth of self-catering and do-it-yourself holidays. The attractions of self-catering holidays are obvious enough: you can do what you like, when you like, and with whom you like. They are ideal for groups of friends, and they were given a boost this year by the fact that they appear to work out more cheaply than other kinds of holiday and because of the increasing popularity of travelling by car in high season.

Continental motoring will be given added impetus in the coming season by the pegging of most cross-Channel ferry prices—a welcome innovation on what has long been regarded as the world's most expensive stretch of water. Indeed, competition among the various ferry operators is now so intense that there could be a price-cutting "war" on the Channel next summer which would serve to make car holidays even more popular.

One cannot argue with the freedom that such holidays give.

Robin Mead

Traditionally the Saturday before Christmas is dedicated to a sort of catalogue of all the jolly gift-wrapped programmes you might acquire in the unlikely event that you are able to spend quite a lot of your time in the next few days listening to your radio. It is a tradition I am intending to respect but not this year at the cost of ignoring utterly the output of a rather interesting week gone by, a week containing among other things Gordon Honeycombe's dramatisation of the last two books in my edition of the last four—from Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur* under the title *Lancelot and Guinevere* (producer Martin Jenkins).

Negative as it may sound, your professional radio listener sits down to anything lasting as this did, five minutes under the hour, with a certain amount of consternation. It is an important and an important one, when and if he stays the full time out, whether 115 minutes or whatever seemed very long or whatever seemed very short or rather like the time it was: *Lancelot and Guinevere*.

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Weekend

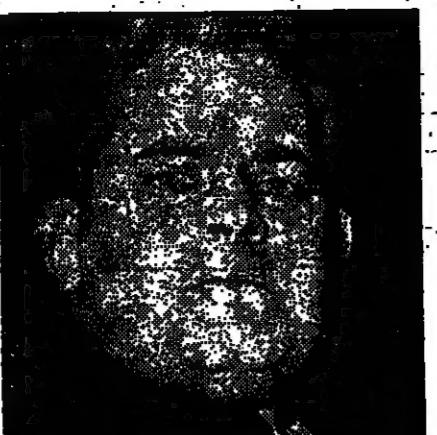
SHOPAROUND

Sheila Black

invites you
to
playaround

Joan Bakewell

Botticelli



Ronnie Barker

Spaceman's Knock



Trevor Brooking

'Pit' your wit



Barbara Cartland

Mime the game



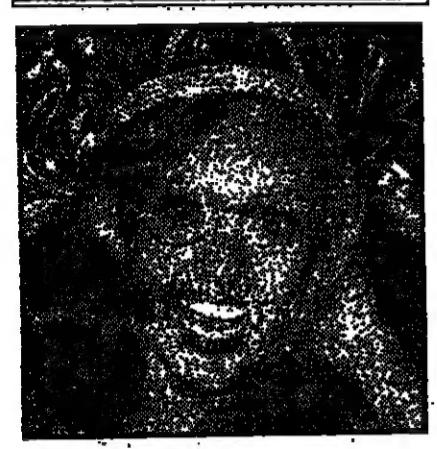
Prince Charles

Kissing games?



Earl of Drogheda

Gin rummy



Miss World

Hates games



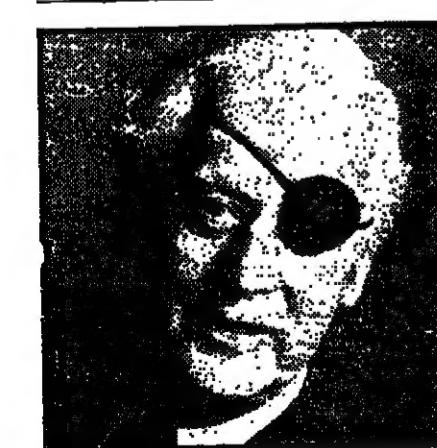
Terry Wogan

Act the Finance Act



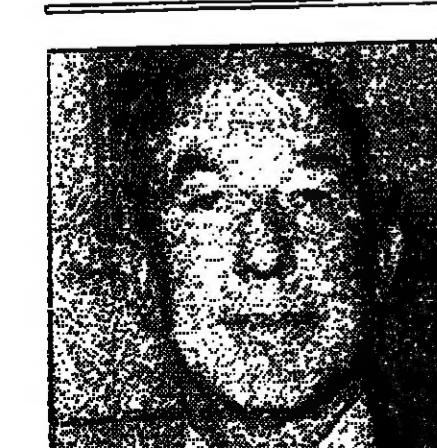
Shirley Williams

No party games



Lord Westwood

Guess who?



R. C. Thornton

Mixed parties



Margaret Thatcher

Charades Race



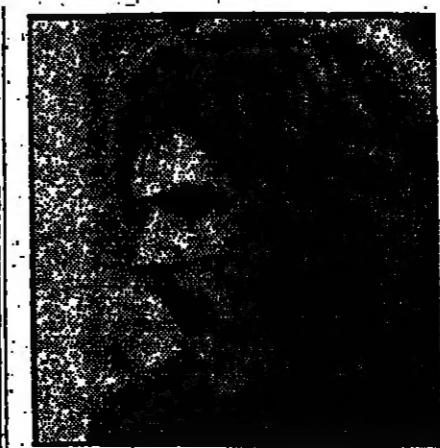
Hugh Scanlon

No participation



Angela Rippon

Mean murder



Phil Parkes

No fool he



Dr David Owen

Charades



can be taped in the same way, then edited to lose the brand names, but do tape each commercial three times in succession to give guessers a chance. The same game is often played with TV soap opera theme tunes but now is rather late to prepare the tapes so this game had better wait for another day of the holidays.

The golden rule is not to initiate party games where there are too many reluctant guests. One or two game-breakers might be infected by the general fun but not more, and games rarely work in totally adult company. However, we did ask a number of well known grown-ups to tell us whether or not they liked party games and, if so, which ones did they like. Few were so positive as to hate party games. Michael Parkinson did hate them and probably still does, but Shirley Williams neither likes nor hates although she never seems to get involved in playing. Another hater is, curiously, Miss World, Mary Stavin, while the contest's organizer, Mrs Julia Morley, does not give parties, which seems a little sad.

Others who neither like nor hate include Angela Rippon, who nevertheless finds, obviously with some relish, belonging to some group which, at their Christmas party, took a "charades" holiday since they played "the best game of charades in the world and a mean game of murder". Murder, in my teenage days, was the game which allowed two people to cling together in a dark, confined space until one strangled the other to screaming point and it usually ended up without the screams and murder but just the clinging. Nor that I am accusing Angela Rippon at all. I am sure her drama group played it very properly.

John Inman hates party games and prefers to sit and chat, while Joan Bakewell admits to being indifferent but obviously joins in any fun willingly enough since she says she does, under pressure, play charades and Botticelli when not in the company of intellectuals. Botticelli was a new name to me, but investigation yielded me a game I know very well. A small group of people name some reasonably well-known phrase, occupation, show title or some such thing while the watchers guess. The miming

actor may reply to questions only by shaking or nodding but most by "miming". The mime can be one action for the entire word or phrase or may mime each word, each syllable, whatever might be the solution chosen. I advise any audience to ask if the mime represents a word, set of words or merely the first syllable of the first word. The more I recall it, the more I remember enjoying it and there are probably several ways of playing it or something like it. It is almost a form of charades, distinctly one of the favourites from many. Dr David Owen's laconic reply was "charades". But he likes games.

The apparently-on television-innocuous but giggling Mr Russell Harty's view is unclear since his secretary responded with a message that Mr. Harty really did not think it was along his line" but we are not quite clear as to whether he means party or answering questions from *The Times* about party games. Mr Hugh Scanlon's pleasant letter had me puzzled as to whether he was pulling my leg or not when he wrote that he has very little spare time "in the type of party which would involve party games". He could have fooled me, but he may have had his tongue firmly in his cheek.

I did write to Prince Charles but since he is currently not giving even the briefest interviews except in the context of the silver jubilee appeal, you will have to devise your own kissing games.

If I had my
life over
again I wouldn't
change a thing.

CALL MY BLUFF

AN EXCITING

GAME OF

NERVES

PAGE

George Hutchinson

Ignore the Jeremiahs, Britain's reserve will win through

If some of our more militant miners in East Kent say, or in Lancashire had blown up a railway bridge and burned down a warehouse during a strike, while others, armed with clubs, had wrecked a coal depot, there might be reason to fear the onset of social revolution.

That is certainly how violence of this character would be represented abroad, not least in much of the American press, ever alert to any portents of doom or disorder in Britain. It requires no great exercise of the imagination to conjure up the reports, the lurid broad-

casts.

But while these things have not been happening in the United Kingdom, they have been happening in the United States—in Kentucky, in Illinois. I have yet to see a single prediction of impending national upheaval, however, foretelling the destruction of American society, the overthrow of the Constitution. Nor will any such dire developments occur, serious though the recent disturbances have been.

With these thoughts in mind, it may be timely to glance at some aspects of our own condition, on this occasion the more welcome aspects, the pleasing rather than the displeasing.

In discussing Britain's industrial troubles, and the political strains affecting the country, many overseas commentators seem unable or disinclined to observe a sense of proportion. They tend to emphasize and exaggerate what is wrong (or what in their opinion is wrong), sometimes to the point of staggering distortion, while playing down, if not altogether ignoring, the happier, sounder and more reassuring features of everyday life. They display little or no appreciation of the quality of our institutions, their continuity and

influence for stability—yet

these, each one an enduring element in the larger tableau, are the very things so greatly admired by countless foreign visitors and by millions of others who will never know them at first hand.

Between public and private

there is often an

astonishingly wide gulf. You

may put it down to a journalistic taste for sensation, which is probably true the world over; but this is not the only explanation.

To the extent that we are

misrepresented, the fault is

partly our own. In saying this,

I am not thinking only of the

relatively small number of

extremists, left or right, who

create a disproportionate

amount of political discord and

disarray and command

corresponding attention both at

home and abroad.

The former is quickly re-

duced to a state of hand-

wringing despondency and de-

pression. He crumbles at the

first hint of even a bakers'

strike (shall we say?) and is

sheerest sunk in gloom,

prophesying national disaster to

anyone who will listen.

The second is a frenetic of

strongly authoritarian frenzies.

Let me just urge a call for

properly pitched battles (shall

we say?) and he is at once

infuriated, inveigling against yet

another threat to public order

and denouncing every main-

gan in the land—for he is

nothing if not indiscriminate in

abuse.

Although one may mock them

lightheartedly, and with ex-

travagance, these are not fanci-

ful figures: they exist, and this

is not really surprising, con-

sidering our history as a par-

liamentary democracy and the

antiquity of our established

institutions.

Whatever our faults (and

they are apparent), they will

not be cured or rectified by

self-denigration, but rather by

reasoned self-criticism.

If there has been a recog-

nizable decline in the

maintenance of law and order,

it is also one that can easily

be exaggerated: however

regrettable, it bears small

resemblance to the breakdown

in some other Western coun-

tries. If there has been a

lowering in educational val-

ues, it is one that can still be

corrected, albeit at some

expense of effort under a

different government. If the

prolific of public life has been

undermined in recent years,

this too is a failure that can

be remedied—and is already, I

think, being overcome, partly

by reason of the retirement or

resignation, not to say the

lethargy and inertia and the

dimmed acceptance of imminent

ruin.

We still possess vast national

assets, reserves and resources,

both moral and material, assets

of unexampled quality in

industry and commerce, in

the universities, in all our many

and distinguished learned

societies. Our public institutions

are the admiration of half

the world—and more. Properly

used—and properly depicted—

these are assets that can hardly

fail us.

With that reflection, I wish

my readers a happy and hope-

ful Christmas.

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An orgy of eating in France, with caviar at £14 an ounce

Oysters, pâté, truffles and champagne top the list for the Christmas spree

in every area or outside restaurants where red faced, blue-barked sailor types keep themselves warm by the exertion of opening oysters for the customers within.

Although some of the small oysters are very reasonable at eight francs (55p), a dozen at some of the more choice and larger ones are selling well in restaurants at prices of up to one pound each.

If a pound seems a lot for one slippery mouthful, it seems positively cheap compared with the price of the best Beluga caviar, which is being sold at 2,000 francs a kilo—something

more than £14.40 an ounce.

This record price in France has been caused by the imposition of a 33 per cent tax on sturgeon's eggs, but it has apparently not deterred the customers. For those unable to afford those prices, however, caviar of lower quality is available in many supermarkets at 1,000 francs a kilo.

For those who prefer a meaty starter—and something cheaper again, there is always pâté de foie gras for 10 francs a kilo, or 60 francs for a kilo—53.60 an ounce—while half-price versions can be found in supermarkets everywhere.

Recent studies of the high level of pollution have not deterred the trade. Now given new grades ranging from TG (tres grosse) through M (gross) and M (moyenne) to P (petite) they can be found in the wooden bushel in shops

everywhere in search of the real thing have to be careful to look for the word "gas" on the label. If it is there it means that the pâté contains at least 75 per cent goose liver.

Truffles are traditionally held, washed down the meal and this year, as are up in France by 11 per cent even though the price has gone up 12 per cent. France may have exported 56.6 million bottles of champagne last year, but twice as many bottles were sold, and presumably drunk, in France in

every year since the

tax on sturgeon's eggs.

Negotiations are going on to

try to produce an official grad-

ing but the last meeting on the

subject in October put off a

decision on a label until late

next year. It is however possi-

ble to tell the real free range

truffle by its label. The really

good ones, reared in the

de-Cabalin over the past nine

months on natural food,

are sold at 10 francs a kilo.

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THE COCKPIT OF THE WORLD

Only a few months ago the situation in the Middle East seemed almost without hope. Although negotiations continued to take place, little progress was made and the requirements of the two sides seemed to be totally irreconcilable. Tomorrow Mr Begin and President Sadat will be meeting in Cairo for serious direct talks to try to make progress towards a general settlement. Of course it is right to retain one's sense of caution about the prospects of peace. Such a negotiation, in which vital interests are at stake on both sides, cannot be easy and the suspicions of thirty years of warfare cannot readily be extinguished. Nevertheless the change is one of the most remarkable in modern history. Only a very little time ago such an event would have seemed impossible.

Both the statesmen involved deserve the highest degree of credit. President Sadat has shown himself to combine imagination and courage. If he achieves a peace settlement he will have done the greatest possible service to the Arab people, to the people of Israel and to the whole world. By his act of reconciliation he has become a major world statesman, generally known and generally admired.

The Middle East in recent years has been the most dangerous of the world's arenas of conflict. Just as Belgium was called the cockpit of Europe because of its strategic position between France and Germany, so the Middle East is the cockpit of the world because of its strategic significance and its overwhelming economic significance to both the super powers and to their allies. The war between Israel and her Arab neighbours has been a continuous peril in the most dangerous area of the world. It has to be remembered that the oil resources of the Middle East are one of the very few interests which might be held by either super-power to justify the use of nuclear weapons.

President Sadat's initiative is not therefore only concerned with a national conflict for Egypt or with the broader conflict between the Arabs and Jews. Its success or failure could determine the whole issue of world

peace and, conceivably the survival of all our nations.

The initiative was President Sadat's; it had to be his because reconciliation, if it was to be made, had to start on the Arab side. There were doubts whether Mr Begin's response would rise to the occasion. These doubts were by no means unreasonable since Mr Begin has for a generation been the leading hawk in the politics of Israel. In fact Mr Begin has responded in an historic manner; because of his total commitment to the cause of Zionism he is perhaps the one man who could carry Israel united through a negotiation in which the territorial concessions from the status quo have to be made by Israel, if peace is to be achieved. He is the one man who could have done it though Mrs Meir was the one woman.

This is not to say that the proposals that Mr Begin takes to Cairo go far enough to make agreement certain. A negotiation is beginning of which the outcome cannot be predicted. But Mr Begin's proposals are a fair and proper starting point for negotiation, and one which required courage and wisdom on his side to adopt. It is not easy for a Jewish leader even to refer to the status of Jerusalem.

There are of course many Arabs who fear peace or who resent the prospect of peace without total victory. There are Palestinians who still dream of the destruction of Israel and the complete restoration of Palestinian Arabs to the lands they occupied before 1947. There are Arabs who cannot ever bring themselves to trust Israel. There are also Arabs who are influenced by fears and suspicions inside the Arab camp. The greatest of the Arab editors of the postwar world, Mr Mohamed Heikal, has expressed his fears of a cardboard peace and those fears are no doubt widely held.

These fears and objections will never be entirely overcome. We are not going to see the Iraqis or the Libyans or the terrorist fringe of the PLO satisfied by any outcome. What is essential is that the settlement, or the momentum towards settlement, should carry the moderate Arab powers; that it should carry the Saudi Arabians and

the test of intention on human rights

The most difficult phase of the Belgrade conference still lies ahead. It has now adjourned after more than eleven weeks spent debating the Helsinki agreement of 1975 on security and cooperation in Europe. Its tasks are to review implementation so far and to agree on new proposals for furthering implementation in the future. Neither task is easy. The Soviet Union does not want a final document which points a finger at deficiencies in implementing the provisions on human rights. Nor does it want new proposals which give it even more trouble than the original Helsinki document. It would probably like a minimal document saying that all thirty-five signatories met, found dents in good shape, and pledged themselves to furthering peace and goodwill. This the West cannot accept. There must be either a reasonable level of truth and substance in the document or a mere registration of the event, which would amount to an admission of failure.

At the moment everything is still open. The Russians have conceded a procedural point so that there will be no bar to continuing to raise points on implementation in the plenary sessions after Christmas. They also conceded a point during the summer so that the whole conference could if necessary carry on beyond the target date in mid-February. Thus all participants now face fairly basic political decisions on how much to press for and how much to settle for.

There is no doubt that the Helsinki agreement has been valuable. It has established standards in East-West relations which have encouraged indi-

viduals to demand more rights from governments and have had some effects, though not enough, on some governments. It has also given support to people within the regimes of Eastern Europe who want more open policies towards the West. It is therefore very well worth keeping alive. The problem in Belgrade has been how to keep it alive and on what terms.

The West European delegations, including especially the British, have been criticised for being insufficiently frank and specific in condemning abuses of human rights. Unlike the Americans, they have been very reluctant to mention names and countries. Their reply is that the aim of the conference is to achieve agreement by consensus on a wide range of issues and that this will be much more difficult if the Soviet Union feels it is being put on trial. This is true as far as it goes. Merely to have traded insults would have got no one anywhere. The question is one of degree. The Americans were considerably franker, and their relations with the Soviet Union have not been noticeably impaired. Moreover, the West must be true to itself if its foreign policy is to be credible in Eastern Europe, and this means demonstrating its belief in free speech and open criticism. Probably it could have been more open without damage; it is dangerously easy for diplomats to be too diplomatic.

However, having promised better results by the quiet approach the Western delegations are now under an obligation to produce them, and if they do so they will have answered their critics. Unfortunately, it is still unclear what the Russians want. They have

sort of return of usage". The cost of collecting such statistics would be considerable, and would "inevitably" also be passed on to customers.

The Whiford recommendations are supported by arguments sometimes fallacious and often ill founded. For example, paragraph 283 grants there is no need to license a "research worker" to copy by hand part or even the whole of a work in a library, but if, to avoid the labour, he is content to pay for a photocopy, we think the price paid ought in fairness to include... also a royalty element for the copyright owner". Clearly the interests of authors and publishers remain the same, whether a copy is taken by hand or by photocopy. The special debt in photocopying, to manufacturers and owners of the machines, is already paid by purchasers of photocopying.

The Report recommends abolition of the existing right to make single photocopies (under Section 7 of the 1965 Copyright Act) and even the right to make a photocopy oneself (under Section 6) for research or private study. The Whiford Committee is aware that similar rights exist in European countries and are preserved in the Copyright Act coming into force in the USA in 1978. Nevertheless it recommends abrogation of such rights in the UK in order to impose a blanket licensing system covering all user requirements for facsimile copies of copyright matter whether made in libraries or elsewhere.

Clearly the "annual fee" this licensing system would exact will be passed on to customers. Owners of photocopies, whether in libraries or private offices, would "inevitably" have to make "some

as we well know, are normally not paid for their articles, which are hardly ever written for financial return. We oppose the recommendation that fees should be exacted for copying from such contributions, made expressly to disseminate knowledge, and often printed at the expense of publishing societies kept going by subscriptions from academic and professional persons. We believe, moreover, that blanket licensing system seeking to exact such fees would probably cost more to administer than it would bring in, and that the same may be true also for other copying permitted by Sections 6 and 7 of the 1956 Copyright Act.

Yours truly,
B. Z. BEINART, Dean of Law,
J. D. PAGE, Dean of Arts,
E. BRODIE HUGHES, Dean of Medicine,
H. A. PRIMA, Dean of Science and
Social Science.

J. M. SAMUELS, Dean of Commerce and
Social Science.
P. H. TAYLOR, Dean of Education,
J. T. ALLANSON, R. H. HUTCHINSON,
L. J. HUTCHINSON,
A. T. COLLIS, F. L. LAFITTE,
J. G. DAVIES, J. C. ROBB,
J. T. DAVIES, L. J. S. SMITH,
J. T. DAVIES, J. T. SPENCER,
P. ECKSTEIN, T. C. TAYLOR,
G. A. GILBERT, R. P. WILLETS,
J. A. S. GRENVILLE, C. F. WELLS.

The University of Birmingham,
20 Abbottswood Road,
Stretton, SW6.
December 12.

The fall in public spending

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative)

Sir, Many of your readers must have been surprised by your front page story on December 19 that there was a second increase at the most senior levels within the Treasury over the month system. Mr Levin should

recognise that it is logically impossible to remove it. If it were re-

moved, all punishment would be rendered ineffectual. What could be

more immoral than to inflict im-

priation on a criminal for the

sake of deterring others if he does

not deserve it? Or would it be

just to subject him to a compul-

sory attempt at reform which

includes a denial of liberty unless,

again, he deserves it? If he does

not see the claims of retribution

are admitted.

Secondly, Mr Levin himself makes

clear that repentence, by itself, is

not sufficient to justify the freedom

of these particular prisoners. "The

origin of the (Moors Murderers)

impulses are buried deep in the

human psyche... (they) are in-

capable of weighing the conse-

quences for their victims, or indeed

of understanding them." Repen-

tence alone is therefore no guarantee

that they would not do such things

again.

Thirdly, therefore, the fury that

will follow their release should

I submit, be fuelled for the most

part not by feelings of revenge and

the appropriateness of retribution,

in this case permanent imprison-

ment, but by fear that the crimes

committed by the Moors

and Myra Hindley and Ian Brady

are not being punished.

Yours faithfully,

JULIAN AMERY,
112 Eaton Square, SW1.

The Unification Church

From Dr Robert P. Carroll

Sir, Mr Dennis Orme, in his reply to Diana Renn's article on the Unification Church, fails to note her article contains "21 factual errors, 42 errors of distortion and 18 errors of malicious distortion" producing "a ratio of bias of one dishonesty per 27 sentences" (The Times, December 22). A magnificient flourish of the typewriter and eraser is denounced. Just like that! But at no point in the subsequent lengthy letter does he cite one example of such error and distortion or provide any refutation of even one of the 72 untrue sentences. Surely The Times would have printed truth, even if only one of the "Letters to the Editor" page 1, were to be treated as a patchwork of bald-faced quotations and bizarre offshoots, each of which only seem to function as a smoke-screen for his failure to refute the errors of the original observation. Thus his letter is virtually an admission of not only his lack of association and no argument. Not an impressive account of truth as it is valued by the Unification Church, though it may well be a better statement of what the church believes. It is also free of a recommendation of the Sun Myung Moon cult.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT P. CARROLL,
3 Southgate Terrace,
Glasgow.

Banishing houseboats

From Mr Arthur Proud

Sir, Your article "EDL Island dwellers win battle for bridge" (The Times, December 20) entirely misses the whole point of the matter.

This is the second time that Rich-

mond upon Thames Council has

harassed houseboat owners in this

borough, the last time being in the

early 70s at the Bel Pie Island

moorings.

Richmond Council has pursued

with considerable vindictiveness a

policy of ridding the river of what

they deem to be undesirable ele-

ments and installing cosy, expen-

sive, suburban dwellings, more in

keeping with their idea of what

is "nice" for the area and taking

no account of the wishes of the

ordinary individual to live in a

fashion that, in general, he chooses

for himself.

Of course, the real point isn't

about people at all, it's about the

massive profits to be made out of

expensive housing, and other de-

velopments on prime sites such as

this. The space previously occupied

by the boat owners on Bel Pie

Island is now filled with town (sic)

houses—priced at £36,000 each.

How good, one wonders, will the

Taggs Island bridge be closed, the

boat owners gone, and, surprise,

another new bridge built to serve

the needs of the wealthy enclave of

people who can afford the £50,000

or more that houses bulk on the

island will cost.

As an aside to all this, the cost

of £20,000 to repair the existing

bridge should be looked at in the

light of the council's estimated £3m

—that's £3,000,000—plus on this

year's rates.

Yours etc,

ARTHUR PROUD,

Twickenham Constituency

Labour Party,

16 South Road,

Middlesex.

December 22.

Ignoring the metre

From Sir David Hunt

Sir, The writer of your religious article on December 17 misquoted Kipling; not long ago a fairly cor-

respondent of yours referred to

poetry, against whom see Kipling, misquoted Kipling, misquoted Kipling;

A. H. R. Price, another correspond-

ent, wanting to quote the first two

lines of a Wordsworth sonnet, pro-

duced three lines of broken backed

Personal investment and finance, page 16

UK yards facing fresh industrial unrest on Polish shipbuilding deal

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent
Britain's controversial £115m shipbuilding deal with Poland faces more difficulties after industrial action taken yesterday by middle managers.

Members of the Shipbuilding and Allied Industries Management Association employed at Smith's Dock on Teeside yesterday withdrew their cooperation in the construction of two bulk carriers transferred earlier this month from the Sykes Hunter yards on Tyneside because of industrial problems.

The 67 members of SAIMA at Smith's Dock banned overtime and withdrew previous guarantees of cooperation and said the reason for their action was that British Shipbuilders, the state corporation, has refused to recognize the association.

The Teesside managers' action was supported by the SAIMA executive and branches in other parts of the country are expected to take similar action when they return to work after the Christmas-holiday.

Earlier this week the board of British Shipbuilders consid-

ered the application for SAIMA and the Engineers and Managers Association to be accorded national negotiating rights with the state corporation. But a decision was deferred pending advice being provided by the Arbitration, Conciliation and Advisory Service.

In a letter handed to Mr George Parker, managing director of Smith's Dock, Mr Conard Warwicker, the Teesside branch secretary of SAIMA, and the organization's senior vice-president said: "The managers employed at the company's yards at South Bank and Hartington Hill considered that as a result of the decision being put off by the state board, the executive committee had 'reluctantly concluded' that the managers' loyalty had been lost."

Mr Warwicker said: "I would add that resulting from further meetings of the SAIMA national council, the escalation of industrial action cannot be ruled out."

Last night a spokesman for British Shipbuilders said there could be no comment on the Teesside action until the position had been clarified.

Talks on Bank fringe benefits 'put in hand'

By Our Economics Staff

The Government yesterday selected effectively MF's critics of fringe benefits for Bank of England staff, while at the same time seeming to suggest that action is under way to deal with the criticisms.

Talks between the Bank of England and its staff have been "put in hand" over suggestions that Bank staff should pay more for some of their fringe benefits, according to a Treasury reply.

However, the Court of Directors will go on taking account of the need to compete with other financial institutions.

The fringe benefits offered by the Bank are very generous and were criticized by the Commons Select Committee on Nationalized Industries in December last year.

They included very low home-loans, 20-year loans at a low rate of interest to pay for education of children in private schools, free loans to pay for season tickets and a non-contributory pension scheme.

The Commons committee accepted the case for providing many of the benefits for the Bank staff, but felt that the charges should be raised to be more in line with those which the ordinary public have to

bear.

News that talks are in hand over a renegotiation came yesterday in a government reply.

The reply does not specifically state whether the talks have already begun. No response was available yesterday afternoon from the Bank on this point, nor on what changes are being sought.

From the Government's statement it would seem that housing and educational loans might be affected. Some jobs are thought to have taken place with no significant result.

In its reply to the committee, the Government also defended the Bank's economic modelling activities, which it says "contribute no more to the economy than using the Treasury model".

The Bank's model of the economy is smaller and simpler than that of the Treasury. The committee had expressed doubts whether it was worth having a separate section in the Bank's modelling of the economy.

The Government also says that attention will be paid in future to the adequacy of the Bank's capital in deciding how much is handed over to the Treasury.

Impala puts up platinum by \$18

In brief

six American companies which expires December 31, extended by Petroleos Mexicanos, Pemex, Mexico's national oil company, on express orders of the President, the company announced yesterday.

A presidential spokesman confirmed the announcement, adding that Mexico suspended the offer until United States authorities and the natural gas companies agree on a new price and make another offer.

Japanese airline is interested in BAC 1-11.

TDA Domestic Airways said Britain's BAC 1-11-670 would haul jet airliner is one of the candidates for new jet orders to replace about 30 obsolete Japanese-built turbo-prop YS-11 planes now operating on local routes.

A spokesman told Reuters that two other possibilities were a modified version of the Douglas DC-9 and the Fokker-28 of the Dutch-German joint venture Fokker-VFW.

A final selection will be made

Heron stake in Henlys sold to bank for £4.2m

By Nicholas Hirst

Heron Motor group shareholders received a Christmas bonus from the Bank of Scotland yesterday, who bought Heron's stake in Henlys, the motor distributor, for £4.2m.

The net book cost of the shares to Heron, which took its stake just over a year ago, was £1.9m, giving a profit after expenses of nearly £2.3m to Heron Corporation and adding to its existing good liquid position.

Bank of Scotland has bought the shares through its finance house subsidiary, Northwest Securities, which has been expanding its business under the "In-bank" heading recently with extensive advertising and a push into general personal credit facilities.

Northwest Securities already has a stake of 25 per cent in Brad Group, a Lancashire-based motor distributor, and provides vehicle financing for Heron Group. The taking of the stake from Heron removes a potential predator from Henlys, which could have threatened Northwest Securities business.

Mr Gerald Ronson, chief executive of Heron Corporation which controls Heron Motor Group, said yesterday: "We received the offer last night. Half our directors were away, but we had sufficient to come to a decision which gives a nice Christmas present to our shareholders. The price offered by Northwest Securities is substantially higher than the price we were prepared to pay for Henlys. They have produced good results but we don't think they can keep increasing profits at the same pace. It was sensible to accept."

Administration officials have indicated that the President will propose next month a Budget for the fiscal year starting

October 1 that is likely to involve an estimated deficit of more than \$50,000m and total government spending of \$500,000m. The current year's Budget involves an estimated \$61,643m deficit and outlays of \$59,576m.

It appears that the calculations being made for the 1979 Budget involve estimates of real economic growth in the United States in 1978 of close to 5 per cent, with a decline in unemployment in the course of the year to about 6.5 per cent from 6.9 per cent today and a rate of inflation of about 6 per cent.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Out like a lamb before the holiday

Previously, business was at a minimum before the stock market went home for Christmas.

But better news on the industrial front from the season, the busmen and the bakery workers sent dealers home in good form and the FT Industrial 21 better at 453.7 leaving it 11.5 up over the week.

Whereas the industrial leaders edged ahead by a few pence while elsewhere most movements were inspired by favourable or adverse comment.

Interest in the gilt-edged market centred on the new long "cap" which managed to finish with an eighth premium after an early small discount on the 15 per cent price.

Shorter dates were one-eighth or so harder where changed.

In spite of the lack of business share have shown a good deal of firmness this week and dealers are saying yesterday that the market now looks in better shape to start a stronger trend in the New Year.

Forminster on way to record year

Forminster, one of the main suppliers of Indian outerwear to the Lakewood Manufacturing Stores, was one of the biggest movers in a quiet stock market yesterday. On news of a near quarter-rise in first half profits the shares put on 5p to 120p. This followed a strong rise in front of the figures earlier in the week.

And chairman Mr. T. C. Roberts is confident that the encouraging upward trend in trading, evident in the first half, should give the group a boost at the year end. Profits then are expected to beat the £1m made last time.

In the six months to October 31, Forminster, which makes ladies and children's outerwear clothing, turned in a pre-tax profit of £554,000 against a previous £455,000 on turnover up 17 per cent from £4.79m to £5.66m. Net assets, including £26,300 from profit, amount to £42,600.

Excluding a 5 per cent profit lifted from 50p to 53.5p while, for shareholders, there was an interim dividend of 3p, up 50 per cent to 23p last time.

Profits at Forminster have not so much as shown a hiccup since 1973, when the group, then a bid for Northern Rubber, profit then was only £125,000 on turnover of £1.2m.

At the chairman's profit forecast for the current year, need not be conservative. Forminster could well beat the 1977 turnover figure with this year's profits.

£7m offer for G Dew as mystery bidder emerges as Dutch group

By Alison Mitchell

A seasonal glass of good cheer came the way of shareholders in G. Dew yesterday as the mystery suitor, who has been flitting in the side lines in respect of 15.5 per cent of the 5.7m plus bid.

Following the announcement Morgan Grenfell, which is advising Volkmer, bought a further 186,000 shares in the market. Together with other shares which had been irrevocably committed, this gives Volkmer a 50.1 per cent stake in Dew.

And the news was enough to give the shares a 13p spurt in the market, where they closed for the Christmas weekend only slightly under the offer price of 169p.

The Dutch-based concern has made an offer through United Kingdom subsidiary Admirem Volkmer.

The merger of the two groups should enable the enlarged company to qualify for company to quality for com-

Dunham Mt owns 59pc of N'west Holst

Referring to its 72p a share bid for Northern Rubber, private company Dunham Mount Holdings, announces that in its offer for the 42.999999 ordinary shares not already owned by DMH or by Messrs. Raymond Slesser and John Liley (the shareholders of DMH) some 455 valid acceptances were received for a total of 289,000. The offer has closed. DMH had bought 2,140,000 in 'NH' and now holds 2,350,000 NW shares representing some 25.6 per cent of the ordinary capital.

Mr. Slesser, a director of Dunham Mount, and his wife, director of Dunham, director of NW and also own 3,010,000 NH, which is about 33.2 per cent, making a total to date of 58.8 per cent.

Under arrangements, DMH was to receive the first 325,000 shares for which valid acceptances were received, with the balance arising from acceptances by Mincoworth & Henriques with certain of their institutional and private clients. As valid acceptances for less than 325,000 have been received, no call has been made on Mincoworth & Henriques. But in response to requests, these arrangements have been modified, so that DMH is to retain only the first 189,000 valid acceptances, and I & H is to place the remainder.

Bank Base Rates

	ABN Bank	Barclays Bank	Consolidated Credit	First London Secs	C. Hoare & Co	Lloyds Bank	London Mercantile	Midland Bank	Nat Westminster	Rossmoor Acc's	Sheenley Trust	TSB	Williams and Glyn's
7/76	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%
8/76	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%
9/76	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%
10/76	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%
11/76	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%
12/76	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%
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3/77	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%
4/77	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%
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1/80	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%
2/80	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%
3/80	7.1%	7.1%	7.1										

Stock Exchange Prices

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 12. Dealings End, Dec 30. 5 Contango Day, Jan 3. Settlement Day, Jan 11

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

Britain's 1978 surplus 'will be bigger than W German'

Britain faces a bright economic year in 1978, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said yesterday. An expected balance of payments surplus of £1,800m should be better than West Germany's; real personal income should grow by 2.4 per cent; and unemployment should level off by mid-1978.

OECD sees risks in European recession

By David Black
Economics Correspondent

Next year is likely to be much better for the British economy than 1977, according to the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). But the British improvement will take place against a deepening recession in the rest of Europe, which poses a threat to the economic well-being of the whole world, including the United Kingdom.

In the latest issue of its *Economic Outlook* the OECD warns of a return of the risk that in the second half of next year the industrial nations of the world may be on a downward spiral once again.

Economic growth in the second half of 1978 will be well below the level needed to stop unemployment rising, the organization says. The total of world unemployment might rise to 17 million by next year, giving an unemployment rate higher than the previous post-war record of 1975.

The organization wants governments to begin a co-ordinated programme of expanding economies through tax cuts designed to boost demand. The most crucial element in this strategy would be the agreement of Germany, Japan and the United States.

The Americans have promised a tax cut and the Japanese a promise to do something, though most people at the OECD doubt whether it will be enough. But the Germans have not said that they do not accept the case for a further cut.

Unless the agreement of all Western countries running large surpluses is reached, the strategy may be impossible to implement. That is because other countries fear that expanding demand when they are still in deficit or only small surplus might lead to renewed monetary difficulties.

The continuing benefit of North Sea oil will mean that next year Britain should have a payments surplus of £3,400m, which is expected to be even larger than that of West Germany. Other elements of the British economy are also expected to look much better.

Economic growth in real terms is predicted to be 3 per cent, without taking into account the likelihood of tax cuts in Mr Healey's spring Budget to stimulate the economy.

There is expected to be a 2.1 per cent growth in real personal disposable income. That should lead to an increase in consumption of about 3.2 per cent.

Most of the increase in living

standards is forecast to occur in the first half of the year. That is because earnings are assumed to rise by 14 per cent during the present wage round, which will give an immediate boost to many people's living standards.

By the second half of next year, however, the higher wage will start coming through in the form of higher prices, pushing inflation up from an annual rate of 8.4 per cent in the first half of 1978 to 10.1 per cent in the second half.

The spur in Britain's growth is expected to lead to an 11.2 per cent increase in investment by next year. That, however, will not bring down unemployment significantly. It is expected to go on rising until the middle of next year, when it is expected to level off.

All these forecasts are based on the assumption that no major economy, so the likelihood is that the real pattern of events will show slightly faster growth later in the year because of the effect of cuts in income tax next April.

The difficulty in forecasting what will really happen to the world economy is much more marked in the rest of Europe, the United States and Japan, however. On the basis of present policies growth in Europe is expected to fall to an annual rate of 2.8 per cent by the second half of next year, and to fall even more in the first half of 1979.

In Germany it is expected to be only 3 per cent in the second half of 1978. Growth rates as low as this will not only mean a short-term rise in unemployment but will also ensure that matters get worse because the lack of demand will mean that new investment is postponed, which in turn reduces demand.

The OECD says its threat is particularly potent in Europe, and adds that on present policies it could start happening to the United States.

By next autumn, the association estimates, butter will cost British shoppers 5p a pound if the price of farm prices are approved, according to the Consumers' Association.

That would be in addition to a 5p a pound increase in farm support prices which comes into force in four days' time, completing the United Kingdom's transition to European food prices.

By next autumn, the association estimates, butter will cost British shoppers 5p a pound if the price of farm prices are approved, according to the Consumers' Association.

The association has called for a freeze on the prices of butter, milk, beef, sugar and cereals.

National Land Fund cash may be used to rescue treasures for Britain

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

A new method of providing financial aid to rescue for the nation's historic buildings and artistic treasures is expected to be recommended to the Government within the next few weeks by the House of Commons Select Committee on Public Expenditure, which has been examining the operation of the National Land Fund.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Mr Arthur Jones, Conservative MP for Devizes, has not yet completed its inquiries, but there is a strong belief among the group that have given evidence that it will recommend the allocation of the remaining part of the National Land Fund, now put at £18,500,000 to a new national heritage council or commission.

It would be independent of Treasury control and have the right to decide whether money should be made available when there is a threat of treasures being sold to overseas buyers.

The use of the fund to retain in Britain treasures that are under threat of being exported became the subject of controversy about a year ago when Merton Towers and its contents came out to the market.

It has been argued before the committee that national treasures valued at £2,000m are threatened by the operation of the capital transfer tax and that a new rescue fund, with special features of investment, is urgently needed.

Essentially the argument is about the status of the National Land Fund and whether it should be consi-

Mr Vance likely to join negotiations in new year between Israeli and Egyptian ministers

Palestinian state issue proves stumbling block at Ismailia

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Negotiations between Egypt and Israel on an overall peace settlement in the Middle East are to continue early in the new year, despite widespread disappointment in both countries that the historic meeting in Ismailia on Christmas Day between President Sadat and Mr Menachem Begin failed to produce full agreement.

The principal difference between the two leaders was over the future of the Palestinians. President Sadat has said that a Palestinian state should be established on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Mr Begin proposed a swap of the Gaza Strip, to the people of Samaria and Judea for a period of 20 years before a decision is taken on the future of the West Bank and rejected the idea of a separate state.

Negotiations will now proceed in two ministerial committees. A political committee, headed by Mr Moshe Dayan and Mr Muhammed Kamal, the Israeli and Egyptian Foreign Ministers, will meet in Jerusalem, and a military commit-

tee, led by the two defence ministers, will meet in Cairo to discuss the various issues raised at Ismailia. They are expected to start work next month but the exact date is not yet clear.

It seems likely that the United States will participate in these committees, in order to help agreement forward. President Carter, who received a telephone call from Mr Begin after the Ismailia meeting, said that the Israeli Prime Minister had told him that Mr Sadat would be available like Mr

Begin, the American Secretary of State, to join in the work. Mr Carter said he did not know yet whether Mr Vance would attend.

Mr Begin also telephoned to Mr Callaghan, who was spending Christmas at Chequers, to give him a report on the talks, and Mr Callaghan later called President Sadat.

Despite their basic disagreement on the Palestinian issue, which led them to make individual statements rather than a joint declaration, both President Sadat and Mr Begin gave

the impression at their Ismailia press conference, at the end of their talks on Monday morning, that progress was made on other matters of importance in Middle East settlement, notably Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

Mr Dayan, the third minister at Ismailia, was among the optimists. He told a Likud party crowd in Jerusalem yesterday that 1978 would be "the year of peace". He believed Egypt was ready to move towards peace, and problems could be overcome in the political and military committees.

Mr Weizman, who is Israel's Defence Minister, reported to the caucus that Mr Begin had told the Egyptians he could be flexible concerning Sinai but his stand concerning the West Bank was final.

Mr Begin and Mr Dayan gave contradictory evaluations of the summit meeting when they returned from Ismailia on Monday. A beaming Prime Minister told a welcoming party at Ben-Gurion airport: "If you pray for our success, your prayers have been answered." However, Mr Dayan said gloomily: "There are many obstacles, and I'm not sure they can be hurdled."

The statements are typical of the divergent tones taken by the two men since President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem last month. Mr Begin has been

highly optimistic and Mr Dayan dubious.

Mr Ezer Weizman, the third minister in the Israeli contingent at Ismailia, was among the optimists. He told a Likud party crowd in Jerusalem yesterday that 1978 would be "the year of peace". He believed

Egypt was ready to move towards peace, and problems could be overcome in the political and military committees.

Mr Weizman, who is Israel's Defence Minister, reported to the caucus that Mr Begin had told the Egyptians he could be flexible concerning Sinai but his stand concerning the West Bank was final.

Mr Begin said he will make public full details of his peace proposals tomorrow in the Knesset. He appeared confident of a parliamentary majority for his proposals, notwithstanding criticism within his own party, and is waiting on coalition discipline to enable deputies to vote according to individual conscience.

Reactions to Mr Begin's peace moves have cut across party lines.

Continued on page 4, col 7

The Middle East
peace talks:
Details, page 4

Legacy of Dickens's snowy childhood

By Stewart Tondler

Now that copies of Bing Crosby's record have been returned to the BBC library for another year it can be disclosed that a white Christmas is something of a myth. According to one of Britain's leading climatologists, the childhood of Charles Dickens is to blame.

Records at the Meteorological Office in London show that there have been only two genuine white Christmases this century. In 1906, 1917, 1927, 1936 and 1968 snow fell on Christmas Eve or Boxing Day but only in 1938 and 1970 did snow fall "deep and crisp and even" on Christmas Day.

This year proved no exception. Hopes were dashed on Friday when Kew recorded a record temperature of 62°F and over the rest of the holiday the daytime temperature stayed in the forties. The only white stuff around was the artificial snow used in the middle of television shows recorded weeks before.

Mr Hubert Lamb, head of the climatic research unit at East Anglia University, says his researches into weather records show that in the first eight years of Dickens's life there was a white Christmas every year with either snow or a white hoar frost. "The idea of a white Christmas possibly owes a good deal to Charles Dickens" and "A Christmas Carol", Mr Lamb says.

He argues that Dickens drew on his own experience and the recent history of his times. Between 1850 and 1900 Britain suffered from a little ice age, which was followed by an unsettled period. The 40 years before the writer's birth in 1812 experienced one of the most disturbed parts of the period.

Mr Lamb adds: "The idea of a white Christmas is fairly mythical. Christmas Day and the days either side have a rather good sunshine record. The most characteristic picture is of a rather quiet, sunny period broken by more disturbed winter weather."

For the last 10 days of December and the first five or six days of the new year seem on the whole to include the variations that characterize the winter period as a whole."

It may be a consolation that snow and sleet were falling in many parts of Britain last night.

Weather forecast, page 2

Chaplin is buried quietly in Switzerland

From Alan McGregor
Geneva, Dec 27

At his own wish Charlie Chaplin—Sir Charles Spencer Chaplin, who died early on Christmas morning, aged 88, was given a simple burial today at Corsier, where he had lived for the past 25 years.

A small group of relatives, close friends and household staff were at the graveside as the Rev David Miller of the English Church in Lausanne delivered a brief eulogy and the Rev Richard Thomson, Anglican chaplain of Vevey, recited Lord's Prayer.

Their voices were low, audible only to those at the graveside, who included Lady Chaplin, and eight of her Chaplin children, among them Sidney, his son from an earlier marriage.

The 88-year-old Geraldine, 53, was making a film in Spain when he was prevented from attending by "difficulties" there. A member of the household said: "The Ambassador to Switzerland, Mr Alan Keir Rothke, represented the British Government."

Lady Chaplin, daughter of the playwright Eugene O'Neill, looked pale and very tired. The household spokesman said she had spent much time recently at her husband's bedside.

The funeral ceremony, at the village cemetery in the hills above Vevey overlooking the eastern end of Lake Geneva, lasted no more than 20 minutes. It was raining and a chill grey mist shrouded the Savoy Alps across the lake.

The wreaths included one "to our friend and mentor", from the Swiss Circus Knie, which Chaplin watched each year when it came to Vevey.

About 300 villagers turned out to pay their last respects as the funeral procession drove through the narrow streets of Corsier, from the Manor du Ban, the Chaplin mansion.

Photograph and tributes, page 3

Leading article, page 9

Obituary, page 10

Heavy traffic, page 1

12 people hurt in 30-car motorway crash

Twelve people were injured yesterday when 30 cars were involved in a collision on the southbound carriageway of the M1 just north of Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire.

The road was wet and slippery and traffic was heavy as Christmas holidaymakers returned home. The two outside lanes of the carriageway were blocked by the crash and a five-mile queue of vehicles quickly formed. A 50 mph speed limit was imposed while the jam was cleared.

Only two of the injured were in a serious condition, the police said. All 12 had been taken to Northampton General Hospital.

Leading article, page 9

Heavy traffic, page 1

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It may have been a little more or a little less, but you probably gave about £100 away last year. Money paid into collection boxes or the plate, money for postal appeals, regular donations, at fêtes or just impulsive gifts.

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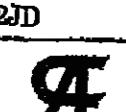
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Builders to seek substantial rises

Construction union leaders have given notice of a claim for "substantial" pay increases, a shorter working week, longer holidays and other fringe benefit improvements.

The employers are also hoping that reflection over the Christmas holiday will have prompted a change of heart by the firemen, although they were being discounted by the TUC. Ministers are relying on the TUC's refusal to support the firemen's hard line to get them back to work eventually. Page 2

French political violence flares

The Christmas holiday in France was marked by political violence, the most serious being a shooting attack on the country home of M Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, and the destruction of the Paris flat of a senior judge.

Updated code: A new Highway Code will appear in February with advice on changes in the law and road use. Page 3

Big Irish prize for England

The English-trained Decent Fellow won the valuable Irish Sweepstakes at Leopardstown yesterday. He beat 17 home-trained rivals to record the seventh English win in the race since its inception in 1969. Page 14

Sport, pages 12-15
Football: Arsenal put themselves into contention for first division championship; Tennis: Two British players in quarter-final of Australian Open; Cricket: Indians beaten in Tasmania; Rugby Union: Barbarians just beat Leicester; Boxing: Andy Edwards down and retired; Arts, page 5

Paul O'Grady on the Sicket exhibition in Hong Kong over police corruption; Geraldine Norman on the great challenges of our age; Obituary, page 10

Charlie Chaplin, Howard Hawks, Dr Giovanni Marderstein, General Juan Velasco

Sport, pages 12-15

Crossword, 16

TV & Radio, 15

HOME NEWS

Ballot suggested by employers as one way out of impasse in firemen's 44-day official strike

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Leaders of the Fire Brigades Union are to gather in London tomorrow to assess the impact of their official strike, now well into its seventh week. The employers' hope that reflection over the Christmas holiday will have prompted a change of heart, but that was being discounted by senior union officials last night.

The union executive will be meeting for the first time since its appeal for help from the rest of the Labour movement in a wages offensive against the Government's 10 per cent pay policy split the TUC down the middle a week ago. Ministers are relying on the TUC's refusal to support the firemen's bid for them back to work eventually.

Mr Brian Rusbridge, secretary of the employers' side, said last night: "I do not want it to be thought that anybody is trying a process of attrition. Nobody wants to see that. What we want to see is the fire service back in full commission again, and the employers genuinely believe the offer they have made is an honourable way to achieve this."

The employers think that a ballot of the striking firemen

"may be one way" of finding a way out of the impasse that threatens to set a new postwar record for an official strike in the public service.

"We feel that a lot of firemen on the ground would be quite ready to take the offer," Mr Rusbridge added. The local authorities have offered the firemen 10 per cent immediately, a reduction of hours from 48 to 42 a week from next autumn, and a new pay structure giving big but unspecified increases in November, 1978, and November, 1979. Mr Callaghan has pledged that the Government will underwrite the cost of such a settlement.

But the most that can be expected from tomorrow's union executive meeting, according to informed sources, is a regular informal concert with Mr Terence Parry, the union's general secretary, whose appeal for backing from the General Council of the TUC was defeated by 20 votes to 17 last week. No improvement in the offer has been made, and none is likely.

The employers see three possibilities ahead: the strike continuing indefinitely; a steady drift of firemen from the service to other jobs in industry; or a gradual return to work. They are "waiting and watching" to see which transpires.

Building unions to ask for substantial rises

By Our Labour Editor

Construction union leaders have given advance notice of a claim for "substantial" increases for a million building workers. They are also seeking a shorter working week, longer holidays and other fringe benefit improvements.

The claim has been submitted in outline by Mr George Smith, chairman of the trade union side of the National Joint Council for Building Industry and general secretary of the industry's largest union, the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians.

In a letter to the National Federation of Building Trades Employers he said that the three manual unions would seek substantial increases in pay and consolidation into basic rates of the 26 and 41 per cent incomes policy supplement.

"In view of the present state of the construction industry, we also intend to return to claims for the improvement of working conditions involving a proposed

reduction of the working week and improvements in holidays and sick pay which were raised during the last pay negotiations," he added.

One of the unions involved, the Transport and General Workers Union sees a cut in the working week as a way of improving employment. The construction industry has been particularly affected by the economic recession and more than 200,000 building workers are estimated to be getting unemployment benefit.

In their first responses to the claim, employers have shown a willingness to listen to the wage demands, arguing that the industry's pay structure should be simplified. They will be sympathetic to improving sickness benefits.

But pressure to cut the working week to below 40 hours will be strongly opposed, and the employers will insist that the industry cannot afford to increase holidays.

Negotiations on the builders' claim will start in earnest next month.

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HOME NEWS

Widespread complaints over goods guarantees

By Robin Young

Consumers' complaints about guarantees are so numerous that there is need for a general code of practice, Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, suggests in a consultative paper.

Local authority trading standards officers reported 1,237 complaints about guarantees in the first half of this year. Complaints included cases where the guarantee on goods received as a gift was in the name of the purchaser and could not be transferred to the recipient. In other cases the guarantee period had expired before the goods were satisfactorily repaired.

Mr Borrie says that some guarantee clauses are "so restrictive and unreasonable that their use cannot be justified". He includes under that heading demands that goods should be returned, in the original packing, to manufacturers that goods should have been bought from an appointed dealer or at full list price and conditions that do not allow the consumer a reasonable time in which to return a registration card to qualify for the guarantee.

An Office of Fair Trading spokesman says the detailed terms of guarantees are seldom advertised, and that often the consumer learns of the guarantees only after making the purchase.

His consultative paper suggests that where guarantees are advertised, their basic limitations should be disclosed.

Mr Borrie has sent his paper to more than seventy organizations representing consumers, trade and industry and local authorities, asking for their comments by February 28.

Strong opposition to £2m lake scheme in unspoilt valley of a national park

From a Special Correspondent

The North West Water Authority's decision to approve a £223,000 scheme to raise by 40 feet the level of Ennerdale lake, in the heart of Cumbria's national park, is provoking universal anger. It seems inevitable that a public inquiry will be held.

Many organizations seek to object to the proposal; they will probably include the Lake District Special Planning Board, the National Trust, the Friends of the Lake District, the Country Landowners' Association, the Youth Hostels Association, the Nature Conservancy, Cumbria Countryside Conference and Friends of the Earth.

Proponents, apart from the water authority, will probably be Cumbria County Council, and Copeland and Allerdale district council.

The purpose of raising the lake is to enhance water supplies to industrial west Cumbria, and the authority chose the scheme in preference to a £4,587,000 project to take water from the Derwent, near Workington. That alternative was favoured by most of the objectors in representations made to the water authority earlier this year, when they also made it clear that in principle they oppose the Ennerdale scheme.

Predicably, the objectors take the opposite view. "Times are changing", Mr William Badger, secretary of West Cumbria branch of the Friends of the Earth, said. "The day when soy development was universally greeted as progress are past."

Progressive thinking leads to the conclusion that the preservation of the Ennerdale valley is of far greater higher level of importance than the mere economics of the water supply situation in west Cumbria."

The Derwent scheme would have the minimum environmental impact, with the capacity to meet requirements well into the next century. Alternatively, the Ennerdale scheme would meet growth in domestic and industrial demand until the end of the century.

The authority is confident that the Ennerdale development can take place without damaging the character of the lake.

Mr Brian Oldfield, its director of resource planning, said: "We are not talking about it. It must create scars that will take at least a generation to heal."

The task was reserved for the "real big chaps" outside Parliament. MPs in the Commons did a considerable job for their constituents on social welfare basis but the House was not a place for people with executive ambitions.

"They would not be able to

Heavy traffic and bad weather end a quiet holiday

Traffic clogged up roads into London and other big cities last night as the weather became treacherous in many parts of Britain.

Exceptionally heavy traffic was reported on the A12 between Colchester and Chelmsford and on the M4 and other main routes into London. After a very mild weekend the weather had been turning colder since Boxing Day. The London Weather Centre warned home-going drivers to expect frost and icy roads by day.

The firebrigade troops and police in London reported a very quiet holiday.

No trace, but quiet
Although the Provisional IRA did not call a Christmas truce in Northern Ireland this year, incidents were reported over the holiday period. Security was at a high level.

Universities unable to avoid deficits

By Tim Alber

British universities are finding it harder to make ends meet, according to the latest batch of annual reports. Bristol, for example, expects a deficit of £300,000 on the income and expenditure account for 1977-78.

"Unfortunately this is not the end of the story," writes Dr Michael Hill, chairman of the University Grants Committee (UGC) for the universities for 1977-78. "It was said by the Secretary of State to represent an increase in 1976-77 of 1 per cent in real terms."

However, omitted from her statement is the fact that this was based on an assumed increase in salaries and wages of 5 per cent and a price increase for all other items of expenditure of 12 per cent.

"Leaving on one side the figure for the increase in salaries and wages were in any way realistic, it would mean the most scandalous treatment of our staff and one the university could not accept."

At Kent a deficit of £250,000 for 1977-78 is expected by Dr Geoffrey Templeman, the vice-chancellor. He notes the posts have been limited to distinguished books and periodicals unbought, essential maintenance undone and academic salaries have become considerably depressed.

This year, he says, the books were more or less balanced; next year's expected deficit means that the university will have to use up the rest of its revenue reserve.

Several vice-chancellors point out that the Government's intention to raise student fees has compounded their difficulties. From Bath, Dr Paul Marwick, the vice-chancellor, says that since five-fifths of those fees are paid out of public funds, the main effect is to complicate accounting procedures whereby money eventually finds its way to the university.

About a quarter of recurrent

income has to be collected from individual students, he says. "This must mean that more and more administrators in the public sector chase sums of public money round smaller and smaller circles, while vacancies in academic staff and technical support at the cutting edge of the university system have to be held frozen."

At Leicester, Dr Ralph Davis, pro vice-chancellor, describes the past year as one of "equilibrium maintained by small adjustments". At one stage, the university faced a possible deficit of £774,000 for 1977-78, he says.

"We came to the conclusion that by the most stringent economies short of staff dismissals, starting at once with a view to producing a surplus of £150,000 in 1976-77 to help the following years, we could just get by without help or rescue. Throughout this year, therefore, we have been looking everywhere to cut expenses."

Dr G. M. Carruthers, vice-chancellor of York, says that if the universities are passing through a period of seven lean years there are still three more to go.

Hull goes into deficit on the finances:

"The figures for 1976-77 are not yet finalised by UGC review, but the estimate is that the surplus will be reduced by £30,000, leaving for 1977-78 an allocation of only £25,000 to cover an estimated requirement of £34,000. The revised budget could be £100,000 short of the mark."

The estimate for the maintenance of buildings and grounds, already drastically pruned, had to be further cut, and capital grants to the university from the government, nor can the university afford to finance it from its own resources; yet it is essential for our expansion that these programmes continue and to provide for a sound built-up from residential fees now seems essential.

The gardens' section is particularly affected from a reduction of 10 per cent in the staff in the year in which the gardeners are leaving.

There would also be a "draw-down" of 35 members of staff and objectives envisaged that are resulting in unoccupied tracts of land at times of low water. One farm on the lake shore, Mirehouse, which is owned by the National Trust, might lose about 30 acres of agricultural land.

The debate will doubtless become more involved.

Mr Thomas Jackson, of Rourkes Farm, which overlooks the lake, said: "This valley will never be the same again, and the greatest tragedy is that it is one of the unspoilt valleys in the national park."

The work at Ennerdale involves a new wall and the raising of the embankment at the northern end of the lake by 1.8 metres.

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There would also be a "draw-down" of 35 members of staff and objectives envisaged that are resulting in unoccupied tracts of land at times of low water. One farm on the lake shore, Mirehouse, which is owned by the National Trust, might lose about 30 acres of agricultural land.

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MIDDLE EAST TALKS

Ismailia summit's quest for a breakthrough to peace

Dec 24.—Israeli Government officials said today that Mr Begin, the Prime Minister, was taking two chief proposals with him to the summit meeting in Ismailia with President Sadat of Egypt.

One of these plans was for a bilateral settlement with Egypt; the other dealt with the biggest problem of all, the Palestinians.

Israeli newspapers and the state radio and television speculated that Israel was ready to recognize Egyptian sovereignty over the entire Sinai, part of which is now Israeli-occupied. But special status would be accorded existing Israeli enclaves in the northern Rafah area and at Sharm-al-Sheikh, the southernmost point.

Israel was also said to be asking for most of Sinai to be demilitarized, and that both Israel and Egypt maintain existing early warning electronic surveillance centres at strategic mountain passes.

Mr Begin, who discussed the proposals with President Carter during his Washington visit, disclosed on American television that the most important provision concerning the Palestinians was to grant them limited autonomy.

Speculation in Jerusalem is that residents in the West Bank of the Jordan and Gaza Strip would elect representatives to a governing council, to deal largely with municipal matters, such as education, health, police and taxes. Israel would control security and maintain some troops in the Jordan River area.

Both Israel and Jordan—which ruled the West Bank from 1948 to the 1967 war—would be represented in the council. The arrangement would be re-examined after five years.

Arab residents would be permitted to choose either Israeli or Jordanian citizenship, while some 50 controversial Israeli settlements in the occupied area would remain.

The plan was also believed to provide for an international commission, including Saudi Arabian and Moroccan representatives, to supervise Muslim holy places in Jerusalem. Another international commission would deal with the resettlement of Arab refugees.

Propitious time to reach a settlement

Dec 25.—Mr Begin flew from Tel Aviv this morning for the Ismailia summit with President Sadat, who is celebrating his fifty-ninth birthday today.

Before boarding the El Al airliner, Mr Begin said: "I'm going to Ismailia, to Egypt to meet Egyptian President Anwar Sadat with an open heart and with faith in my heart."

"We are carrying a peace plan which has been described by everybody who has seen it as a fair basis for a negotiated peace".

"We have faith in our hearts because this is the propitious time to establish peace in the Middle East; to prevent another war from breaking out; to prevent sadness, bereavement, orphandom and mourning among two great civilized nations, Israel and Egypt."

"We leave for Ismailia without any superiority complex. But we also leave without any inferiority complex."

Mr Begin named a long list of world leaders headed by President Carter and Mr Callaghan, who he said had all endorsed the plan as a good and fair basis to conduct negotiations for peace.

The flags of Israel and Egypt were hung from the windows of the cockpit of the El Al airliner taking Mr Begin and his party to Egypt.

As the Prime Minister left, a member of the ruling coalition described Mr Begin's peace proposals as "a disaster for Israel".

Mr Moshe Shamir, a leader of the Greater Israel movement within Mr Begin's Likud block, told a press conference that the Prime Minister's plan "will not bring peace but will serve as a basis for the next attack on a weakened Israel".

Mr Shamir said the parts of the plan which concerned the West Bank were "a cornerstone for an (independent) Palestinian state governed by the Palestine Liberation Organization" (PLO).

Message from Mr Carter as talks start

Another member of the Greater Israel movement, Mr Zvi Shiloach, has resigned from the Likud's executive in protest at Mr Begin's plan.

Mr Shamir said his movement would fight against the Prime Minister's proposals "just as we did against similar intentions during former Labour rule".

Opposition to the return of occupied territories to Arab sovereignty has also mounted in Jewish settlements established in those areas during the past 10 years.

Members of settlements in the British approaches of northern Sinai demonstrated at Ben Gurion airport while Mr Begin was speaking to reporters before leaving for the summit meeting.

An hour after landing in Beirut, President Sadat and Mr Begin started their first round of talks, a 50-minute private meeting. As they did so, the two leaders received a telephone call from President Carter, who told them the entire world was supporting their efforts for a Middle East peace settlement.

Mr Carter made the call from his hometown of Plains,

Georgia. He told reporters afterwards: "The connection was pretty bad. I could just barely hear them. So I relayed a message to them that they have my best wishes and support and that the whole world awaits the peace that they can bring us on this Christmas Day."

Egyptian officials in Ismailia were quoted as saying that the line went down as President Sadat took the call, but the White House said it believed there was at least a brief conversation between the two men.

Mr Begin, who is the first Israeli Prime Minister to be welcomed in an Arab state, and President Sadat emerged smiling from their private meeting.

Asked whether they reached a joint agreement, Mr Begin said: "We had serious discussions for several hours in complete sincerity. We will resume our talks tomorrow at 9 am. Tonight we are guests of President Sadat and there is good hope that we reach agreement."

The two leaders reported that they had reached quick agreement on next steps towards a negotiated Middle East peace.

"We have got off on the right foot," Mr Begin said. An Israeli spokesman said Mr Begin also presented a draft declaration of intent for a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

Begin anger over leaking of peace terms

The two men agreed before their lunch adjournment that peace negotiations would be continued at the level of foreign and defence ministers after their summit.

When Mr Begin learnt of the disclosure in Israeli newspapers of some of his peace plans he expressed great anger, according to newsmen travelling with him.

The chairman of the foreign affairs and security committee of the Knesset said the information had been leaked after Mr Begin had shown the plan to the committee over the weekend.

After lunch Mr Sadat and Mr Begin had a second private meeting and in the evening the two delegations met once more.

Sources said the future talks between foreign and defence ministers would be linked to the Cairo conference.

They said the leaders of the Cairo talks would become Mr Muhammad Ibrahim Kamal, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mr Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, and Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary General.

Mr Kamal told reporters that a settlement based on full withdrawal (of Israeli troops from occupied Arab territories) and the restoration of Palestinian rights must lead to permanent peace".

Asked whether there was any progress during the talk, Mr Kamal said: "Any talk lead to an understanding in the points of view. Our demands are clear and we will insist on them."

Mr Gamal Ahmad Osman, President Sadat's father-in-law, and the member of Parliament for Ismailia, said he did not believe the plan was the same as that outlined by Mr Begin during his visit to Washington last week.

Mr Sadat makes no comment on Israeli plan

"That one I think was for local consumption", he said. He did not elaborate.

Mr Begin's Washington outline proposed autonomy for the West Bank but with the continued presence of Israeli troops. President Sadat subsequently went on record as saying a continued Israeli military presence on the West Bank was unacceptable.

Egyptian officials said the Egyptian delegation met alone in the afternoon to draft its counter-proposals to the Israeli declaration of intent.

It was announced that Mr Begin would stay the night in Ismailia to allow time for more talks.

Mr Sadat agreed with Mr Begin that the talks had started well. But while agreement was quickly reached on how negotiations could be continued, Mr Sadat had no comment to reporters on the substance of the Israeli plan for peace itself.

According to a senior Israeli delegate at the summit, Mr Begin's Government feels it has made major concessions and expects President Sadat to follow suit.

"A wide gap still exists between our positions," he said. "If we are to make any real progress, President Sadat must make at least some of the broad military and political concessions made by Israel. The negotiations must be a two-way street with give and take by both sides. So far, only we have been given."

The Prime Minister's wife, Mrs Aliza Begin, was forced to call off her plane to visit Mrs Jehan Sadat, the President's wife, because of influenza. Instead Mrs Begin sent Mrs Sadat a gift and a message with the Prime Minister.

In Beirut, about 3,000 Palestinians, many of them carrying automatic weapons, marched through the streets in protest against the peace talks.

The demonstrators, members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), converged on a sports stadium

According to reports leaked by the Israeli press and radio, the peace plan presented by Mr Begin to President Sadat envisages:

1. Israel to withdraw to a line from El Arish, northern Sinai, to the southernmost tip of the peninsula at Ras Muhammad for an interim period of between three and five years.

2. Israel afterwards to complete the evacuation of Sinai to the pre-1967 international boundary line.

3. Israeli settlements in Sinai to be under Egyptian sovereignty but settlers to retain Israeli citizenship and be subject to Israeli laws and courts.

4. Israel and Egypt to exchange consuls-general until completion of the Israeli evacuation of Sinai when legations would be up-graded to ambassadorial level.

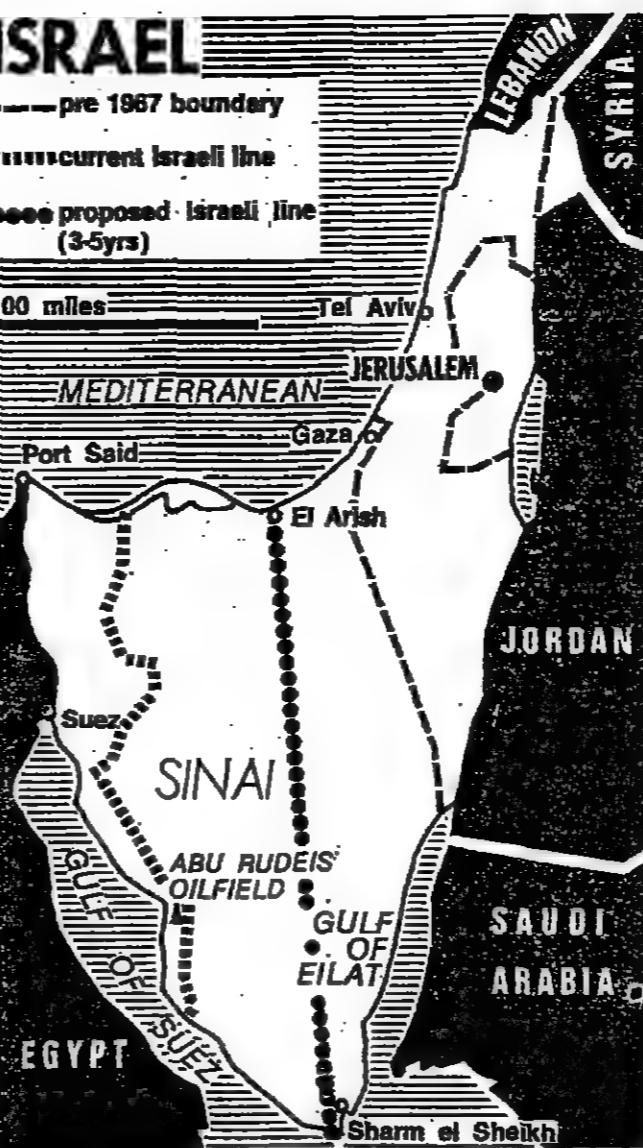
5. Autonomous rule for the occupied West Bank of Jordan for a period of 20 years with the establishment of a ruling council for internal affairs and formation of 10 departments, similar to government ministries.

6. At the end of the interim period a tripartite committee to be established of representatives of Jordan, Israel and the West Bank people to determine its future, all parties having the right of veto.

7. Israelis to retain the right to establish settlements in Judea and Samaria and Arabs who opt for Israeli citizenship to be entitled to purchase and own land anywhere in Israel.

8. Autonomy for the Gaza Strip.

9. Israel to maintain a military presence in the West Bank and in Gaza. Security and foreign affairs to be handled by Israel.



Mr Begin makes a sweeping gesture as he talks with President Sadat during their first meeting on Christmas Day

for a mass rally marked by chants, songs and speeches denouncing Mr Sadat.

The Marxist-oriented DFLP is the second biggest Palestinian guerrilla group after Fatah.

Guerillas armed with Soviet-made assault rifles marched at the head of the long procession as it wound slowly through the narrow streets to the strains of a funeral march.

A large contingent of Syrian troops attached to the Arab League force, which supervises the post-civil war truce in Lebanon, stood along the route and inside the stadium, but there were no incidents.

Before addressing the rally, Mr Naseef Hawash, the DFLP leader, told reporters he expected the peace talks in Egypt to produce an alliance between Egypt and the United States, and which has been making spasmodically for 12 days, would hold one more session tomorrow before adjourning to give way to the two committees.

"Clearly they will announce the general principles of a deal between Sadat and Carter which will be against Palestinian interests," he said.

"We feel very bitter because this is going to lead to the destruction of our national rights to establish our national rights to establish an independent state in our homeland," he said.

Mr Dayan said he did not believe the plan was the same as that outlined by Mr Begin during his visit to Washington last week.

Mr Sadat, outlining their differences on the Palestinian question, said:

"The position of Egypt is that on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip a Palestinian state should be established. The position of Israel is that Arab Palestinians who are in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza strip should enjoy self-rule."

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Both men also failed to issue a much heralded declaration of intent. On his return to Jordan, Mr Dayan said he believed it was because of differences over the Palestinian question that they had not issued a joint statement. Instead they made separate statements outlining their opposing views.

Ministers to join Cairo conference

The two leaders, at a joint press conference in Ismailia, made clear that some progress had been achieved on other issues, such as an Israeli withdrawal from Egypt's occupied Sinai Peninsula.

They also agreed to upgrade the Cairo preparatory conference to ministerial level and to form two ministerial committees which will do the real work on a comprehensive settlement.

The Egyptian leader also revealed that Israel was willing to withdraw its troops from the West Bank. "In proposals made by Premier Begin he has shown his willingness to end the military government on the West Bank," the President said.

"But we differ on the issue of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the question of self-determination."

As for Syria's Golan Heights, still also held in part by Israel, Mr Sadat said he could not speak for Syria. He was concerned with the main principles of Arab strategy.

Egypt's position is that the other parties involved—Syria, Jordan and the PLO—must negotiate the details of a settlement with Israel.

In Cairo, the Egyptian Middle East New Agency said the military committee set up at the

Ismailia summit would meet in the Egyptian capital on January 7 or 8.

It also said the political committee would meet in Jerusalem in the second half of January. The committees were expected to end their work within six or eight weeks.

While Mr Begin returned to Jerusalem in an apparently exuberant mood, many Israelis appeared disappointed with the results of the summit.

The Prime Minister said he had agreed with Mr Begin that the political committee would include representatives of the United States and the United Nations.

In Jerusalem, Mr Begin's peace proposals, submitted to Mr Sadat, will be announced during a Knesset debate on Wednesday.

The contingent of more than 100 journalists who accompanied Mr Begin to the Ismailia summit were strongly impressed with the continuing warm personal relationship between Mr Begin and President Sadat.

The two men beamed and joked with each other before the press conference despite the difficulties in their positions on Middle East issues.

While his speech was brief, the Egyptian leader, Mr Sadat, was reported to have had a long speech of his own.

After his return to Israel, Mr Begin telephoned President Carter and Mr Callaghan to inform them on his meeting with the Egyptian leader.

Mr Dayan, interviewed by Israeli radio from Ismailia, said: "A wide gap still exists between Egypt and the United States concerning the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. We reject this, as do the United States and other countries as well, and the Egyptians could not accept our position for self-rule in Judea and Samaria."

"Our differences (over the Palestinians) are basic," he said. "The Egyptians wanted a state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. We reject this, as do the United States and other countries as well, and the Egyptians could not accept our position for self-rule in Judea and Samaria."

Mr Begin said the Ismailia meeting had been successful, although he admitted that deep differences existed between the two sides.

"You prayed for success and your prayers were answered," he told Israeli. "The important thing is we have entered negotiations and don't let us forget that all peace negotiations throughout history started with differences of opinion. Give us a chance."

He reiterated previous statements that he was certain the negotiations would eventually prove successful. But many prominent Israelis expressed misgivings or disappointment over the results after being led by the Israeli press to expect a dramatic breakthrough.

Two Israeli newspaper editors who were in Egypt for the summit said they expected similar results. Mr Shlomo Rosenthal, of Ma'ariv, said his initial reaction was "one of some disappointment but then it became mixed—perhaps because we expected too much."

Mr Hanna Zemer, of the Labour Party, also expected similar results. Mr Zemer said his initial reaction was "one of some disappointment but then it became mixed—perhaps because we expected too much."

Mr Shlomo Hillel, another Labour Party expert on Middle East affairs, charged Mr Begin with bad judgment. In order to avoid dividing the West Bank with Jordan as proposed by Labour, Mr Begin was proposing autonomy, which could evolve into an independent Palestinian state in all of the West Bank, he said.

There was widespread disappointment over Mr Sadat's rejection of the offer of autonomy, but experienced observers said his acceptance could not have been expected. Headlines in Monday's Israeli newspapers that "agreement" had been reached on the outline of peace had raised expectations here unrealistically.

Sober observers said the agreement to get down to the essentials in the military and political committees headed by ministers was a considerable achievement.

Mr Shlomo Hillel, who learnt about the deal from his colleagues in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, said: "The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has been appalled by the lack of progress in the negotiations. They are disappointed that the negotiations have not gone as far as they expected."

The spokesman for the

Mr Carter to meet King Husain in his mediation efforts

By David Cross

Washington, Dec 27

President Carter, who has been cheering on President Sadat and Mr Begin by telephone from the Georgia side-lines during their talks in Ismailia, has returned to Washington determined to do all he can to keep the Middle East peace momentum going.

This process is likely to include some quiet diplomacy with both Egyptian and Israeli leaders to encourage them to narrow their differences over the key issue of the West Bank and at least one highly publicized encounter between Mr Carter and an Arab leader absent from the present rounds of peace talks.

Mr Carter announced at the weekend that he would meet King Husain of Jordan in Jordan later this week to encourage him to enter the negotiations.

Guest Column

And now a word on behalf of women

This week's guest column
is by
Marjorie Duncan Hollowood

When a male birth is greeted with just that extra bit of rejoicing—"It's a boy"—what effect does this have on the female psyche? Does it, as I believe, subtly undermine women's confidence in their own worth? When a timid, fussy man is described as "a proper old woman", how do senior citizens (feminine gender) feel about the implied slight?

Words and phrases like these are unfair and unkind to women and typify a linguistic bias which is embodied in our everyday speech. For example, ambiguous language writes women's achievements out of the record.

References to men and mankind abound not only in the Bible but throughout our literature. Although men purports to include women, the generic term undoubtedly obscures women's part in history. What is more, the absence of a pronoun meaning both he and she makes it extremely difficult for even the most fair-minded of writers to give women their due. Men and women, he and she insensibly become men and men, and, in no time at all, he is apparently doing, making and creating everything. Women as innovators of civilization are lucky if they get so much as a mention in a footnote.

A similar obfuscation reigns with sons and daughters, brothers and sisters. Who has ever heard of a business entitled "Sons and Daughters", or seen a shop sign "Sis"? Yet there are, and must have been, such understandings. In the centuries preceding the Industrial Revolution, women belonged to guilds, managed farms and ran businesses. Surmaners, ending in her, Brewster, Webster and so on denote a female entrepreneur. Where have all the ladies gone?

To ambiguity is added sheer muddle.

Only can mean solely or merely. So what does "He only has daughters" convey? Is it a plain statement of fact or are we to pity the poor man for his bad luck? The same goes for jazz. Is "She's just a housewife" faintly disparaging, or isn't it?

Another kind of linguistic sleight of hand has contrived to throw doubt on women's mental capacity. Women have traditionally been bracketed with children and children with women. And women, *lunatics*, *magistrates* and *thieves* were excluded from the vote. These juxtapositions have seemed to imply that women are somewhat weak in the head.

The trouble with words is that they are often loaded with unintended meanings.

Language tends to lag behind advances in thinking and to perpetuate past attitudes. When the "National Council for Unmarried Mothers" rechristened itself "National Council for One Parent Families" it eliminated the stigmatizing label.

But the term has not entirely lost its sting. When a girl in court, say on a shoplifting charge, is described as "an unmarried mother" this is unlikely to help her defence. A young man would not be identified in this performative way. Similarly, newspaper reports often mention "I" husband and his common-law wife". Why is it the woman who gets the label?

There is no doubt in my mind that a *harmless* double standard exists which reflects other double standards of legal, social, economic and moral nature.

The finger of scorn will point more readily at the female than the male. It is more reprehensible for a woman to be drunk; it is even, somehow, worse for a woman to be old. For the term *old woman*, to achieve parity of esteem with the affectionate *old*

man, it has to be upgraded socially to *old lady* or rejuvenated to *old girl*.

The dictionary defines a prostitute as "a woman who offers her body for hire..." and allows the other party to the transaction to remain incognito. Roger's Thesaurus gives 60 words for females of easy virtue but only 22 for their male counterparts. And, apart from *filler* de *filler*, terms applying to women are considerably more numerous. Compare the repellent *slut*, *whore*, *harlot*, *hussy*, *baggage* with the playful *rat*, *seductress*, *call girl* and *gay deceiver*; *Jessiebel* with *Don Juan* or the gay *Latharia*.

Epithets from the animal kingdom carry more disagreeable undertones in the feminine than the masculine gender. As terms of abuse, *dog* and *cow* are mild compared to *bitch*, and would require further qualification to be equally offensive—*swivelling cur*, perhaps. Or contrast the affectionate *old cock* with the derisive *old hen*. Male appellations seem to be flatteringly linked with prowess—*buck*, *wolf*, *stallion*, *stags*. Female terms—*sow*, *old cow*, *wifey*, *cat* and *shrew*—suggest squalor, redundancy and a poisonous bad temper.

It may be thought that facts have been selected to suit the case. I don't think so. I am not denying that there is plenty of male rogues, villains, swines, ruts and so on, or that there are terms of endearment by men for women. What I am saying is that there is an overall imbalance.

Women get more than their fair share of blame and castigation. One last example: there is no female equivalent for *misanthrope*; hater of women. *Misandrist*: disesteem of men by women is so rare as to be virtually unknown.

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During the past 10 years more than 1,200 patients have been discharged direct into the community from our four top security special hospitals—Broadmoor, Rampton, Moss Side and Park Lane—and to help former patients coming out of these special hospitals, The Matthew Trust has been set up.

The trust took its name from St Matthew's Gospel—largely because of the reference Jesus made in Chapter 25: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me... I was sick and you visited me... I was in prison and you came to me... and is preparing itself to provide help in areas not fully covered by statutory sources.

The Matthew Trust is, of course, in its infancy. Programmes for detailed research into the areas ex-special hospital patients find themselves in on discharge are now being closely studied. Only one important study has been done in the past 10 years on the fate of this type of ex-patient and this revealed that 35 per cent of ex-patients from special hospitals had been detained again within two years of discharge direct into the community.

One that had been discharged via *hospitals* was not included and, therefore, one can assume the redetention rate is even higher.

The difficulties the probation and social welfare services experience, let alone voluntary organizations, are immense but uncodified mainly because follow up studies of patients have not been tackled systematically. The Matthew Trust hopes to resolve this particular issue by tracing, over a five-year period, the lives of some 50 ex-patients.

Getting this type of patient established is difficult, particularly when the family home is broken up and it is here that The Matthew Trust finds or spends much of its efforts, and with employers. *Providing an indemnity bond* to ex-prisoners, *providing employment*, *residential and leisure briefings* under the aegis of specialists in these areas coupled with the weekend excursions that patients already have prior to discharge.

Some do overcome discharge difficulties. One patient from Broadmoor Hospital Civil Service exams and now has a senior position in the Home Office and another is a senior partner in a firm of chartered accountants, but these are exceptions to the rule. Most find settling down fraught with difficulties—particularly getting *jobs*—and invariably accept the inevitable life in hostel and secure training jobs.

It is not generally appreciated that the type of patient coming out of the special hospitals is not always from a working class background. Quite frequently the patients may have held a communion in the services, been in a senior management position in industry or been an entrepre-

Giving released mental patients a better chance of success

is another priority of The Matthew Trust and the attitudes of the personnel managers, on learning of a special hospital background, will be evaluated in an attempt to educate them and to help former patients coming out of these special hospitals, The Matthew Trust has been set up.

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The Matthew Trust is studying the effectiveness of pre-release treatment and guidance in the four hospitals: £14m is spent a year on 2,000 patients in our four special hospitals, but little of this sum is devoted to reorientation programmes for discharge.

The Matthew Trust believes that the special hospital authorities should prepare patients for discharge by giving a six-week programme prior to discharge that covers employment, social awareness, residential and leisure briefings under the aegis of specialists in these areas coupled with the weekend excursions that patients already have prior to discharge.

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It is not generally appreciated that the type of patient coming out of the special hospitals is not always from a working class background. Quite frequently the patients may have held a communion in the services, been in a senior management position in industry or been an entrepre-

neur, schoolmaster or scientist. As the National Association for Mental Health (N.M.H.) has said before "Mental illness is not the sole prerogative of the working classes".

But whatever the social background the former patient still has adjustment problems. Hostels, like those provided by the Church Army, Langs Trust and others provide important support, but The Matthew Trust believes that "group homes" are a more realistic solution. Six to ten patients living with each other and working during the day and supervised by staff retired from one or more of the special hospitals seems more to meet the needs of those having had complicated psychiatric backgrounds.

Home and job found, the patient from a special hospital requires a greater degree of support than, perhaps, the ex-prisoner, for a period of more years in a special hospital, leave is mark on the mind and emotional make-up of the ex-patient. When one has had to accept that trust, in terms of judgment, behaviour and social responsibility has been taken away for several years it is often terribly difficult to have total confidence on discharge and to resume a place in a busy, competitive society and to reacquire social skills that the average person takes for granted.

It is too easy for the professionals to say "what we need is an educational programme... to get the public to understand..." for in the end the success of the patients total integration is dependent upon human contact and trusting relationships in which the ex-patient learns to grow again and mature to a point that he or she is like anyone else.

The Matthew Trust has no pretensions about the task ahead of it. Given the encouragement that it gets from the Department of Health and Social Services and from trusts, companies and individuals, the lot of the former patient from our four special hospitals might conceivably be more hopeful.

Peter Thompson

The author is Principal Trustee of the Matthew Trust

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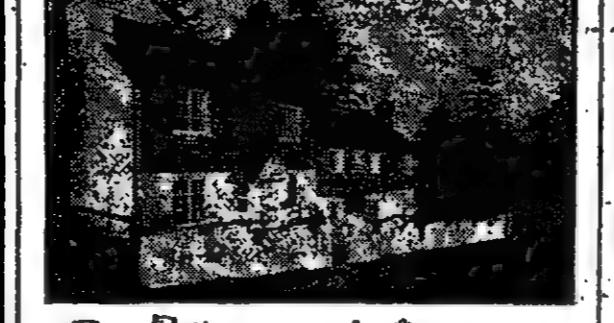
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Why Congress bowed to the grand old lady of the Deep South

She stands majestically around a bend in the wide Mississippi river like a ghostly presence from the past, her huge stern paddle churning the muddy waters and forcing her 1,650-ton bulk along at a stately 8 mph. But she is not so quiet ghost. You can hear her when she is still 10 miles away, and the cry "Riverboat's comin'" still brings riverfolk hurrying to the water's edge to await her arrival just as they did in the days of Mark Twain.

She is the Delta Queen—the grand old lady of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, the fast of the old-time steam driven overnight riverboats, and a queen from the tip of her crown-topped funnels down to her teak floors and stained glass windows.

And she is aflock today because of the tenacity of a woman who loves her and who saved her from the breakers yard by taking on the Washington bureaucrats and beating them at their own game.

The Delta Queen was built on the Clyde in the 1920s and shipped out to the United States for use in the sheltered waters of San Francisco Bay. She was used as a trooping during the Second World War, then sold to what is now the Delta Queen Steamship Company for use on the Mississippi.

There her regal looks and stately progress quickly became a tourist attraction. Remodelled and refitted at a cost of \$750,000, she was the one remaining example of the taste and opulence of the old-style riverboats, her wooden superstructure complete with teak handrails, ironwork floors, copper-set stained glass windows, and lots of oak and mahogany paneling.

But in 1955, after disastrous fires on board two big passenger liners at sea, the United States Congress passed a law which looked like ending the Delta Queen's reign. The Safety at Sea law required that any vessel carrying more than 50 overnight passengers must be constructed entirely of steel—and lawyers decided to this new rule extended to river-boats.

But they had reckoned without Mrs Betty Blake, who had joined the Delta Queen Steamship Company as a saleswoman and part-time PR director. Formerly with a television station doing sales promotion and an adviser to two business magnates, Mrs Blake sat at home on the river and among the riverfolk. She loved the tradition and language of the Mississippi—and she determined that the Delta Queen should not die.

"I went around the country and told everybody about the boat," she says. She wrote to Congressmen and broadcasting stations and everyone influential that she could think of. She organized protest rallies, knocked on Senators' doors.

and telephoned newspaper editors. Even *The Times* was moved to print a leading article defending the Delta Queen. "It would have been ridiculous to screen such a lovely boat," Mrs Blake says, now a vivacious 47-year-old with the light of battle still in her eyes. "She is a floating antique. It was stupid to say that the law extended to her. After all, we are always in sight of land."

Mrs Blake's campaign paid off—at least for the present. The vessel was declared a national historic landmark, and Congress bowed to the pressure of public opinion by deciding that the Delta Queen should not be exempt from the new law until 1983.

Today Mrs Blake is president of the Delta Queen Steamship Company, and as much a heroine along the river as the Delta Queen herself. "There is no prejudice on the river," she says. "The river is a farmer, not a tough old salt. If you can do the job they respect you."

They respect tradition too.

Although the Mississippi Queen, the Delta Queen's steel-built sister ship, is popular, it is the Delta Queen which draws the crowds to the levee (the cobbled area at the water's edge) to towns like New Orleans, St Louis, Pittsburgh, Nashville and Cincinnati. They want to see the traditional crew, fiddles, horns, the joyous notes of the calliope (or steam piano) which carry for 10 miles, and watch the stage being lowered.

"Stage" is river-talk for gangplank, and is so called because it is where the crews of the old boats used to put on impromptu shows for plantation workers.

The river has a language of its own that has few similarities to accepted nautical terms. Ship-to-ship signals are based on whistles, so even the sides of the boat are the one-whistle side and the two-whistle side instead of port and starboard.

Mrs Blake, and thousands of her fellow enthusiasts, are determined that these traditions should never die. In fact, the only thing missing for the Delta Queen's 12,000 passengers a year is a real river-boat gambler, of the kind seen in a score of American films.

"We travel through several states which forbid gambling."

Mrs Blake explains. "But we do have a pretend gambler, and bongo players, and all the other things that you would expect. We try to recreate what they did on the old river-boats—that kind of entertainment instead of deck sports. And we try to teach people the history of the river, the steam-boats, and of the Civil War."

"What we need now is legislation to permanently exempt the Delta Queen from the Safety at Sea law. It is so important to preserve these things."

Robin Mead

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Neena Gopal, Age unknown, Kenya

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Bernard Levin

Three cautionary tales for admirers of the great Workers' State

I have made clear on more than one occasion my view that the TUC's greatest single betrayal of their own *raison d'être*, and of the interests of those they represent, had nothing to do with British domestic, economic or political matters, but was represented by the fawning welcome they extended to Alexander Shelepin, the man whose job was to crush any attempt on the part of Soviet workers to combine in their own interests or to express their grievances.

After that betrayal by the democrats, led by Mr Len Murray, the activities of the communists' fellow-travellers, even Mr Alex Kitson, can hardly be wondered at, or indeed complained about, by your friends who are in the book you will surely write.

Today Mrs Blake is president of the Delta Queen Steamship Company, and as much a heroine along the river as the Delta Queen herself.

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They want to see the traditional crew, fiddles, horns,

they know perfectly well what life is like in the Soviet Union and are ever-busy about their work of ensuring that life becomes as nearly as possible the same in Britain. But Mr Murray, after all, is not to be numbered among this crew, even though he is also not to be numbered with the Frank Chapples who are actually working to ensure that the crew do not succeed in their task, and it is therefore in the hope that he may be persuaded to think twice next time he is about to commit so egregious and disgraceful a folly as he did over the Shelepin visit that I venture to draw a high level of accidents. In Mr Kelbanov's pin alone, he said, the death-rate was from 12 to 15 a year, and the injuries from 600 to 700. Mr Kelbanov was wounded, perhaps even disabled, at the risk to his men. So he complained. And did the mighty voice of the Soviet Mineworkers' Union then thunder about the callousness of the Soviet Coal Board, were questions asked in the Supreme Soviet: did *Pravda* write fierce leading articles calling for an inquiry and the punishment of those responsible, did Mr Len Murray's "opposite number" demand that the Government should act? Well, I do not know to answer those questions, but what you may like to know is that actually happens to a Soviet worker, who makes representations about the bad working-conditions they undergo. Mr Kelbanov was sacked, and put in a mental hospital for over four years.

Then there was Mrs Kurakina, the

appropriate quarters—such as to their "trade union" representatives.

The coal-miner, for instance, Vladimír Kelbanov by name, was a foreman in a Doubas pit. Because of the impossible productivity norms Soviet miners are compelled to meet, which if anyone suggested introducing them here, would bring out on permanent strike such few British miners as had not died or shock on hearing the details, miners in Soviet mines often have to work a 12-hour day. Not unnaturally, they become tired; not unnaturally, this leads to a high level of accidents. In Mr

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disabled, at the risk to his men. So he complained. And did the mighty voice of the Soviet Mineworkers' Union, in the field of work. They brought the document to the attention of the Soviet authorities, and 38 arrests are expected shortly.

Mrs Kurakina complained, to a

"union" meeting of restaurant

workers: guess the name of a Soviet ex-waitress who is now out of a job, along with her husband, unable to get work of any kind and deprived of her pension rights.

Next to speak was Anatol Poznyakov, a locksmith. He was on wages of 75 roubles a month, which is rather less than £2 a week. Dismissed with this princely stipend, and needless to say, Mr Brezhnev's appeal to Soviet workers and employers to keep within recommended pay guidelines, he asked for a rise. He was told by officials of his local party organization that his station in life was "to eat from a pig's trough" and it was made clear to him that he had better not raise his head from it. But he failed to

heed the warning, was dismissed, and now subsists on a medical disability payment (roughly £6 a week) together with what his mother can spare from her pension (roughly £13 a week). When he went to the authorities of the institute at which he had worked, asking for help, he was eloquently told "If you can live, if you can't die".

A group of 38 Soviet workers, including Mr Kelbanov, have recently signed a petition describing the "repressions"—plundering of people's dignity, the measures of terror used in the field of work. They brought the document to the attention of the Soviet authorities, and 38 arrests are expected shortly.

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Others point out that ICAC

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AFTER ISMAILIA

After their whirlwind courtship President Sadat and Mr Begin are having trouble getting down to a working relationship. Both seem disappointed with their Christmas meeting. The magic is going out of their affair and they are now having to confront fundamental differences. But this is neither surprising nor reason for despair. Nobody expected a fully polished agreement to emerge from the meeting. The best that could be hoped for was evidence of willingness to go on talking seriously about a peace settlement, and that is what emerged. Political and military commissions will now get to work and report to the Cairo meeting in January. Meanwhile bureaucracies on both sides are buzzing with activity as the search goes on for bridges between the two positions. Only a formidable psychological breakthrough could have generated so much activity in so short a time, and there is still no reason why it need fizzle out.

Yet the gulf between the two positions is indeed wide, especially over the future of the West Bank. Mr Begin has offered self-rule for twenty years, after which a tripartite committee representing Jordan, Israel and the people of the West Bank would decide the future subject, however, to a veto by any one of the three parties. Meanwhile Israel would retain the right of settlement as well as responsibility for security and foreign affairs. This is a long way from the full statehood demanded by President Sadat. If he is to have any hope of getting wider Arab

support for a settlement he will need a good deal more. To leave the final question pending for twenty years with an Israeli veto looming at the end is not really a settlement at all.

Mr Begin must know this but how far can he move? He has already moved some way from the positions he stated when he was elected. To go all the way to meet President Sadat would mean almost totally contradicting himself. He could probably afford to do so if he could offer the Israeli people a sufficiently convincing peace settlement in exchange. This has been made more difficult by the divisions among the Arabs. Had they known they could not only have exerted enormous pressure on Israel but they could also have offered reasonable assurances that a settlement would be honoured. As it is, although no full settlement would come into effect without wider participation, the uncertainty sown by the Arab rejectionists makes it that much more difficult for the Israelis to reconsider their position.

The key decisions must still be made by and with Israel. The problem is how to give the Palestinians a homeland that would not pose a threat to Israeli security. Mr Begin seems to think that this can be achieved only if Israel retains responsibility for security in the West Bank. This is not necessarily the case. An Israeli presence might exacerbate tension and provoke insecurity, whereas the Palestinians living on the spot, who have as great an interest in peace as the Israelis, might be able to police themselves more effectively. Obviously Israel will need more than promises if she is to feel secure. At this stage it does not seem impossible to work out something which goes further to meet President Sadat's position yet does not expose Israel to real insecurity.

This appears to leave President Sadat with the temptation to go for a quick settlement of those issues which he can settle with Israel, notably the status of Sinai, but this is not practical politics. Among other things he is very dependent on the Gulf states, and although they very much want peace—especially a peace which keeps the Russians out—they do not want deeper splits in the

Arab world. Any agreement between President Sadat and Mr Begin must therefore be one which it is reasonable to expect other states to accept in due course when tanners have cooled down. But this does not mean that President Sadat should now follow Mr Heikal's advice and turn his attention to negotiating a united Arab position. In the present situation it could hardly be anything but a waste of time. All interested parties were invited to Cairo and presumably the door remains open to any who wish to change their minds about attending. Those who stay away have excluded themselves for the moment and cannot expect President Sadat to divert himself from the main task of working on Israel to take the far more daunting task of getting agreement among Arabs who show no interest.

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THE RIGHTS AND WRONGS OF STRIKING

Industrial disputes and the damage they do seem to be always with us these days. The economic damage is familiar enough by now—the delays in production, the extra cost, the inefficiency. But there is also the social cost, the damage that is done to a society when any group is prepared to press its interests regardless of the hurt it may inflict. How far is it morally permissible for the parties to an industrial dispute to go? Is any hurt to be justified by reference to the right to strike in a free society, with the logical if brutal addendum that it is no use having the right if one cannot cause pain in exercising it? Or are there limits that ought to be set by the moral pressure of a humane society?

Such questions are bound to provoke increasing concern as one hears of the hardship caused by one struggle after another. A leading article in the current issue of the Church of Scotland magazine *Life and Work* suggests that it is time for the Church to speak on the Christian's duty in industrial and professional conflict. It is appropriate that this proposal should come from such a quarter

because the Church of Scotland has traditionally been especially concerned with the examination of social issues, but the questions are of such broad consequence for society as a whole that if such a study is to be set up it would be best if representatives from other Churches could be associated with it.

As the article points out, often "the victims of Britain's new tribalism are not those who are most involved but those who are most vulnerable". The theory of the strike is that it is a weapon to be used by workers against their employer in furtherance of an industrial dispute with him. By withdrawing their labour they make it impossible for him to fulfil his activity in full if at all and thereby engage him in a direct trial of economic strength. But in practice the strike weapon seems to be used increasingly as a means of hurting the general public and thereby inducing them to bring pressure to bear on the employer. Sometimes the employer and the general public are hurt as a means of exerting pressure on the government. One of the principal purposes of any examination by the Church or Churches should be to consider whether these, or indeed

any other, indirect uses of industrial power can be morally justifiable.

There are a good many other practices, such as the closed shop, which would need to be looked at; but it should not only be the industrial unions that should be brought under scrutiny. In recent years such professional groups as doctors and teachers have adopted tactics which previous generations would have thought incompatible with their duty to society. Is there need for a new distinction to be enshrined in this instance not in law but in public expectation, between those who do and those who do not have a moral right to strike? Is it also necessary to determine how far certain occupations may legitimately go? Employers' practices too should not pass unnoticed. But if an examination of this sort is to have value it must not seek to balance criticism of unions with complaints against employers just to show that the Church is not prejudiced. The only justification for one more committee would be if it were fearless to focus attention on practices which in their effects often do not appear to be consistent with a moral society.

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December 23.

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SPORT

Football

Leeds cause Everton to lose much more than just another game

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Leeds 3 - 1 Everton
Their record of 22 unbeaten matches having been lost in 62, defeat by Manchester United on Boxing Day, Everton compounded a rare error by losing again at Elland Road yesterday. The rhythm of their defeat also lost some of the goodwill that had been built over the first half of the season.

They lost their composure and their style—the two being directly related. Leeds, full of power in defence and always brighter in attack, were able to master them before half-time and in the end were coasting to a convincing victory. The Everton goal for the final minutes failed to turn the tide.

It was a hard, stern match over which neither the referee nor the more delicate ball players had enough influence. The dominant forces were in McQueen and Madeley, rightly supporting the Leeds' defence. McQueen hovered over Lanchester and left him in the shadows while Madeley gave McKenzie few opportunities to repay the players of most concern to supporters who gave him applause at the beginning. Everton's own followers had not seen him since he last appeared on October 8 and soon realized that he had returned on a day that did not suit him.

Their own defeat, by Wootton-Wanderers, the previous day, was not to be compared with Everton's painful experience and the two sides' records in fact say the more confident that everything immediately fell into place. To all intents and purposes they lost the complete services of Jordan for some time early in the game after he received a bad knock for injuries received in the first of many heavy collisions.

In the second, a three-way clash with the Everton goalkeeper Wood, the central defender Higgins, Jordan's body, and his way for the next 15 minutes proved by half-time had fully recovered and Leeds had the game in their keeping.

Two goals were perhaps more than they deserved as Harris and Graham swept in from the wings often to be brought crashing to the ground by defenders who gave

the decisive, but not the answerable, the ball. Higgins escaped, only momentarily long enough to justify Everton's fears if not their tactics. He received from Cherry and held the ball for long enough to assess the possibilities. A run along the line was blocked but he used the ball into the net and, with Higgins, was bordering to turn to face the goal, struck a solid shot inside the far post.

Most of the style and all of the appeal that had popularized Everton in the season now left them as that record became a mark in history. Pejic was twice warned for shouldering into Higgins, but Leeds' protected themselves with goals. Almost at the end of the first half Everton saw the end of their troubles when Higgins was allowed for a clearance over Jordan. From 25 yards Lorimer was comfortably within his famous range for a cracking free-kick that sliced off some fine foot like a spear of light and lodged in the corner of the goal.

By giving away another free-kick, Everton compounded their frustration and increased Everton's frustration so much that their record was in jeopardy.

Leeds rarely allowed Everton in their penalty area and when they did McQueen and Madeley each dealt with Lanchester who had a novice. When

Pearson's shot was off the attack

Thomas, who provided them with copious canaries, came to nothing. Instead, they had to wait for the overall pattern. It was scored by Douglas with a clever low shot after a corner was allowed to bounce about in the Leeds penalty area. It was probably the crucial point by which the two sides were separated when McQueen was chasing opponents rather than the ball.

Certainly McQueen had been beaten but the referee had already taken the ball off the Everton players. Ross, Pejic and Lyons in quick succession, and his team had rendered their own justice.

Opponents: P. Smith, P. Cherry, P. Pejic, P. Lanchester, S. McQueen, J. Higgins, M. Madeley, S. Thomas, J. Lorimer, G. Wood, D. Jones, M. Higgins, M. Lanchester, D. McDonald, K. N. Latchford. Referee: K. H. Burns (Stockbridge).

Menacing Arsenal expose West Brom's fragility

By Arthur Osman
West Bromwich Albion 1 Arsenal 3

To be beaten twice by the same score in the space of 24 hours suggests that the temporary management on and off the field at West Bromwich will have to put out to restore a sense of confidence that drained from Albion in this game like post-Christmas goodwill.

The other side of the coin saw Arsenal happily complete a six-game holiday victory streak, almost away victory in succession. No one could question their right to it.

Arsenal played with economy, purpose and style to knock the stuffing out of Albion with two goals in the first 12 minutes and then were more than equal to anything Albion could muster for the rest of the half.

Albion could do little to match Arsenal's depth and the same was true of their body language. Some of the desperation came into their play. Some of it was crude and although they were allowed to get back into the match in the second half, Arsenal coasted, Albion's meekness, to say the least, over

exhibited. It was no surprise when Robert Jones saw the yellow card for a desperate lunge at Price who only minutes earlier had come out of the boots of Stadium surprisingly, for the Albion back is far too good to indulge in such exhibitions of frustration.

However, natural justice was served as soon as after 75 minutes with a penalty awarded to Arsenal that had its doubtful points, but seemed to be a cumulative sentence for so much that had gone before from Albion. The referee, Mr. J. H. Marshall, who was the steward of the half-way line at the time that Price fouled McDonald marginally outside the area, was on the way home.

The opening phase had crackled with fast and furious moves that

had Godden running 15 yards from his area to clear the ball from McDonald's feet and then being beaten by the fast player who had cut him off the ball. McDonald and Rix in particular outwitted the defence at will, and it was Rix who went on to have a splendid, decisive game. He made the first two goals and the third. The Albion defence, once so sure, was sluggish, stood watching as the wingers' diagonal pass found Sutherland unmarked on the right, and he had the ball in from close range. It was a simple and devastatingly effective.

Within two minutes Rix had again to thunder the ball goalwards only to see it cannon off the post and then be beaten by Rix who went on to have a splendid, decisive game. He made the first two goals and the third. The Albion defence, once so sure, was sluggish, stood watching as the wingers' diagonal pass found Sutherland unmarked on the right, and he had the ball in from close range. It was a simple and devastatingly effective.

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SPORT

Racing

Beacon Light's win casts shadow on Champion Hurdle

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

The racing at Kempton Park on Boxing Day certainly woke up the ante-post market as far as the Champion Hurdle and the Gold Cup were concerned. Following Beacon Light's victory, in the William Hill Christmas Hurdle and Night Nurse's fall in the same race, Birds Nest is now favourite to win the Champion Hurdle—Hill's offer of 3 to 1 being marginally more generous than that of Ladbrokes, who have cut his price to 5 to 2. Night Nurse, who had never fallen before, has now eased to 4 to 1; Beacon Light has hardened fifth and sixth respectively.

With Birds Nest and Beacon Light to represent him, Bob Tornell has an undeniably strong hand. But he said, "I am not too sure if I can put him in that race, but he is better at Cheltenham than they did earlier this year". On that occasion they finished fifth and sixth respectively.

O'Halloran did not ask Bachelor's Hall to tackle Uncle Bing until they had jumped the last fence. As soon as he did, it was clear that he would be beaten.

Marshall and Fox ploughed on dourly to finish third and fourth respectively. Nimrod, who was trained in France until very long ago, ran exceptionally well, and was fifth. The English steeplechase over a distance may have been just a shade too far for him, even though he did not finish amongst the money. On this showing, Marshall will surely have no difficulty in placing him to win either here, where he is still eligible for novice hurdles, or in France, where he is still well handicapped.

On the other hand, both Royal Frolic and Brown Lad were most disappointing. After he had seen Coolball win the Bing Crosby White Christmas Steeplechase, O'Halloran told me that the Corroado Steeplechase, which was at Newbury in February, could be Bachelor's Hall's only race before the Gold Cup.

Today is likely to be decision day for the Border Incomer, another Gold Cup contender, is concerned. He will be examined this morning by two vets who will then advise his owners and trainer whether or not they ought to run him in the race, and whether or whether they would be wiser to put him away until next year and treat the leg that he injured soon after he won his first and only race this season at Wincanton.

STATE OF GOING (official): Stratford and Fontwell, soft; Totnes, soft; Newbury, soft; Newmarket, soft; Newmarket, good to soft.

No wonder Fort Devon's trainer, F. W. Wray, still feels upset about not being able to run Fort Devon at Kempton. To make matters worse, the foot that Fort Devon bruised a week ago is still so sore that he will not be able to run in the Mandarin

Steeplechase at Newbury on Saturday, either. But Wray has still got Fort Devon right for the Gold Cup at Cheltenham in March, and, at present, all the evidence points to the big chestnut having a favourite's chance of winning.

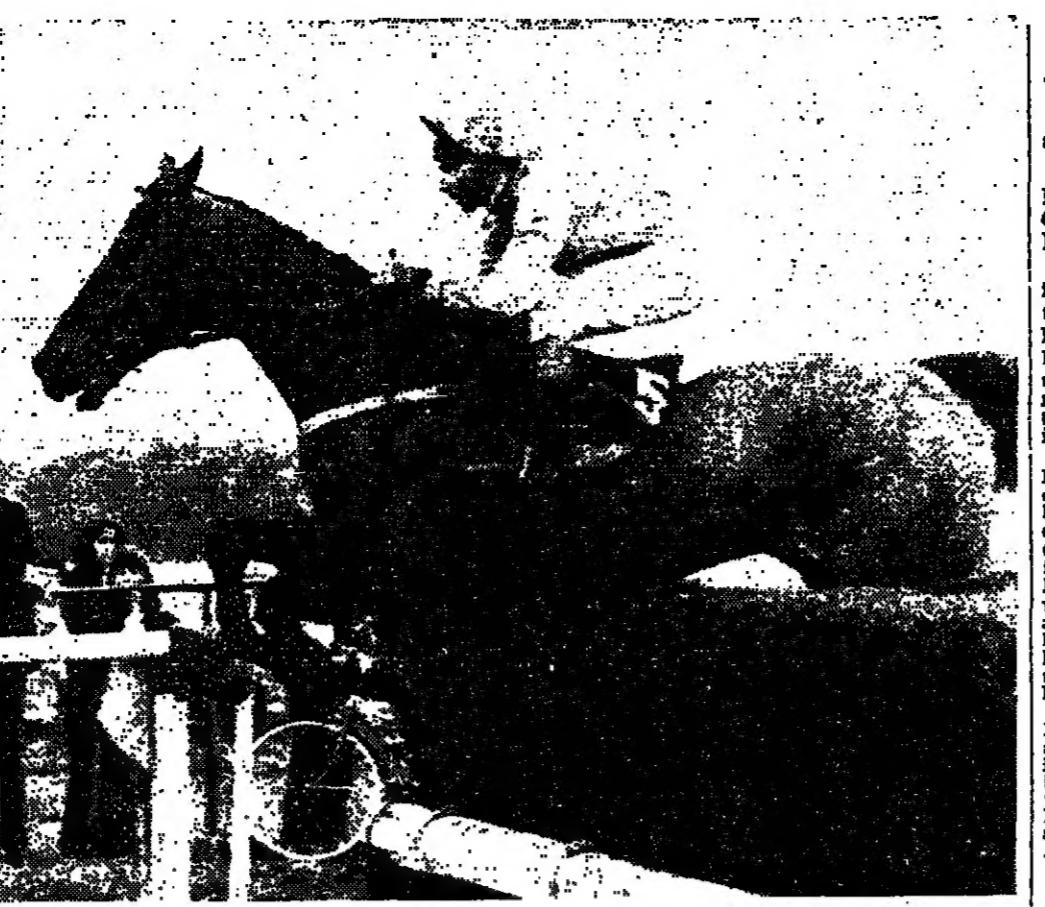
On Boxing Day, Bachelor's Hall won the King George VI Steeplechase by outpacing Uncle Bing on the run in. He won by a length, having been ridden with the utmost patience, not to mention confidence, by O'Halloran. While John Francome was blazing the trail on Uncle Bing, O'Halloran had been looking towards the rest of the field, conserving Bachelor's Hall's energy. Turning for home, Uncle Bing still looked like winning, but when he jumped to his left over each of the last three fences, it was clear that he would be beaten.

For the time being, Tornell can comfort himself with the knowledge that his two are both excelling themselves, whereas things are not going right for the champion. Night Nurse, a disaster overruled him on Boxing Day, Beacon Light was leading him by a neck or perhaps even half a length, and going the better, when they both took off in unison in the last hurdle of the same time. Beacon Light met it perfectly, but Night Nurse took off just too far away and hit the top as he was coming down.

His forelegs were wobbling away from under him and both he and Paddy Broderick, his jockey, fell heavily. It was lucky that Broderick was no more than badly bruised and concussed. Yesterday from his bed at home, yesterday's hero, Tornell, was still extremely sore and feeling rather dizzy, and that he would be out of action for at least a week.

Bachelor's Hall galloped his way into the Gold Cup in the King George VI Steeplechase. He is clearly a much improved horse. Although complimenting Peter Cundall and Martin O'Halloran on their achievements, it is only right to point out that Bachelor's Hall was receiving a store from Fort Devon when he won by a neck in the Hemmings Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury in November. By all accounts he was lucky to do so.

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01-837 3311, P.O. Box 7,

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PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD. We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day mistakes do occur and we ask therefore that you check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it to The Classified Querries department immediately by telephoning 01-837 1234 (Ext 7180). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

Let us now go even further. If you are in doubt as to which is come to pass, which the truth will be shown when we are called.

St. Luke 3:14.

BIRTHS

ANDERSON.—On Christmas Eve, at Carlton Lodge, Marlowe, to Ian and Carol (née Hall-Woodward) and son.

MANOWITZ.—On Christmas morning, at St. John's Hospital, Bayswater, to Bill and Jo—daughter, whom we have named Alessandra.

MASON.—On December 25, at St. Saviour's, Brixton, to Helen and Simon, and a son.

ROGERS.—On December 25, at The Princess Margaret Hospital, Bayswater, to Peter and Linda, and a daughter (Isobel).

SIMPSON.—On December 25, at St. George's, Park, Croydon, to Alan and Alison, and a son (Samuel).

SOUTHERN.—On Christmas Day, at St. George's, Park, Croydon, to Michael and Alison, and a son (Thomas Andrew), a brother for another.

DEATHS

ASHDOWN.—On December 26, at Guy's Hospital, after a short illness, Ruth Edward Ashdown, formerly of 10, St. John's Wood, which was owned by Sirs and all his family.

BOLTON, DR. JOHN RICHARD.—After a long illness, at his home, 106, Buxton Road, Bayswater, to his wife of 22, Eileen, and his husband of 80, and father of Pauline, and a daughter (Pauline).

COOPER.—On December 26, at St. John's Hospital, Bayswater, to his wife of 20, and a daughter (Pauline).

GRIMES.—On December 26, at St. John's Hospital, Bayswater, to his wife of 20, and a daughter (Pauline).

HOBSON.—On December 26, at St. John's Hospital, Bayswater, to his wife of 20, and a daughter (Pauline).

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